SPRING STATED MEETING
AT THE RACQUET CLUB

Featured Talk by Phyne Expert

On Thursday, May 23, 2013, the Saint Nicholas Society held its Spring Stated Meeting at the Racquet and Tennis Club, 52nd Street and Park Avenue, with election of new officers for the year 2013–2014, and a presentation by Carswell Rush Berlin, on “The World of Duncan Phyne and Other New York Cabinet Makers.”

The evening began in an anteroom, with an open bar and hot hors d’oeuvres served by the attentive staff of the Racquet Club, before the stewards called us to the beautiful, wood-paneled dining room.

Gracious preliminaries by our President, William R. Manger, Jr. included introductions of past presidents attending: Messrs. Kent L. Straat, John Shannon, and Stephen B. Billick. The stewards soon presented the traditional procession of the Weathercock, sped on his way by enthusiastic waves of napkins by members and guests.

Our menu began with a green salad featuring asparagus vinaigrette. This was soon followed by very generous portions of filet mignon accompanied by sautéed potatoes, green beans, and carrots, all served with excellent red and white wine.

A particularly pleasing part of the evening was the induction, by Charles R. Mackenzie and President Manger, of four new members into the Society. They were: William E.E. Campbell; Nathaniel Macon Klutz; Gordon B. Stewart IV; and Christopher B. Steffens.

A most important item of Society business was transacted at this Spring Stated Meeting, namely the election of new officers for the year 2013–2014. Nominated for President was William M. Manger, Jr.; for First Vice President, Richard R. Victor; for Second Vice President, Charles W. Neuhauser, Jr.; for Third Vice President, Robert A. Naud; for Fourth Vice President, Charles R. Mackenzie; for Secretary, Brian A. Blake; for Treasurer, William M. Manger, Jr., President of the Saint Nicholas Society.

They were joined by a distinguished ball committee including numerous members of participating organizations: The Colonial Dames of America; The Daughters of the Cincinnati; George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate, Museum & Gardens; The Holland Society of New York; The Huguenot Society of America; The National Society of Colonial Dames; The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society; The Order of Colonial Lords of Manors in America; St. George’s Society of New York; The Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York; The Society of the Cincinnati; The Society

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TIM LYKINS:
New Saint Nicholas Society Office Manager is Man of Many Trades

The Saint Nicholas Society is pleased to announce that it has hired Timothy D. Lykins to be its new Office Manager. He started on September 9, 2013.

In addition to contributing his considerable talents to our Society, Tim brings a varied and unique background: as well as an

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of Colonial Wars in the State of New York; and The Society of Daughters of Holland Dames. The centerpiece of this splendid evening was the presentation of Miss Isabella Rose Meyer as 2013 Debutante.

The celebration began with guests being welcomed by a glittering receiving line in the upper hallway of the Racquet Club. In the large room beyond, drinks were served from an open bar, and hot hors d’oeuvres were passed by the Club staff.

After the guests had entered the spacious ballroom and taken their places at the beautifully decorated tables, enthusiastic words of welcome were offered by Mrs. Kimmelman and by Mr. Manger, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Mr. Charles Neuhauser.

After an appropriate interval the glamorous presentation of the 2013 Paas Heritage Ball Debutante began, with Mrs. Kimmelman and Mr. Manger officiating. Miss Isabella Rose Meyer, in a magnificent gleaming white dress, was presented by her father, Mr. Joseph Paul Meyer, a descendant of her colonial ancestor, Resolved White. Her escort was Mr. John Richard Trimberger III.

An eloquent Grace was pronounced by Mrs. Thomas E. Slattery, who throughout the evening took quantities of excellent photographs, which she has most kindly and generously offered for use in this issue of The Weathercock.

Dinner then began with a first course of Maryland crabcakes and mixed field greens,
served with tartar sauce. The entrée was roast breast of chicken with Champagne sauce and mushrooms. Excellent red and white wine was served throughout.

John Blake recited his immortal Toast to our Ancestors, while descendants stood as their ancestors’ names were heard in the stirring roll call.

The traditional egg-cracking contest was led by Mr. Manger. Each table is provided with a basket of colored hard-boiled eggs, one for each guest. Then guests around the table match skill and luck knocking their eggs together until only one remains intact, not having been cracked on its opposite number as the guests engage in this friendly combat. Thus the first round concludes.

Then the winners from each table join together on the dance floor and repeat the procedure until there remain two finalists, to wage battle for prizes. This year the winner of the egg-cracking contest was Anne Yoakam, and the runner-up was Dr. Suzanne Roff-Wexler, a member of Society of Daughters of Holland Dames.

Dessert was then served, consisting of a rich chocolate mousse cake, with coffee and tea. Joyous dancing to music by the Stan Kurtis Society Orchestra went on late into the evening which lasted until after 11:30 p.m. The evening was counted a great success and an excellent sign for the flourishing of the hereditary societies.

[More photos on next page]
administrator and event coordinator, he is a percussionist and an educator. When not working for St. Nick, Tim serves as Associate Director for Catholic Finance Association where he organizes events. He is also the Director of Young Adult Ministry at St. Malachy’s—The Actors’ Chapel in Times Square—where he coordinates a variety of events throughout the year. Tim has performed with groups from rock bands to cabarets as a percussionist and performed with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic and other symphony orchestras.

Before he moved to New York, Tim was professor of percussion at Oklahoma Christian University. He also taught at a summer camp and tutored private students. As a musician he has toured China, France, and the United States.

Tim’s educational background includes a Bachelor of Music Education and Masters in Instrumental Performance from Oklahoma City University. While attending Oklahoma City University, he studied with Dr. David Steffens, principal percussionist of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

Frank Sypher asked Tim his thoughts on hereditary societies, especially the Saint Nicholas Society, and his interest in the history of the City of New York.

Tim: “I haven’t had much experience with hereditary societies so it’s difficult for me to say, but everything I have experienced at the Saint Nicholas Society has shown me that it’s a very positive Society that has a feeling similar to an extended family. I enjoy being in the building of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen where there are multiple hereditary societies. This will give me more experience and understanding of these societies and the interaction between them.”

“The City of New York and its history has always fascinated me. I’m looking forward to learning more from people with lineage extending from the foundation of such an amazing and influential city.”

Tim brings a whole new perspective to our office. Members should introduce themselves to him.

With Tim’s arrival, the office has new hours. They are Monday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. In addition, Tim will be checking messages and will be available via phone and email throughout the week.

To serve on the Board of Managers: Class of 2014: Cody D. Constable, George Boyd V, Joseph vanB. Wittmann III. Class of 2015: Stephen H. Bacon, William R. Follett, Craig H. Weaver. Class of 2016: D. Campbell McCrery, N. Gregory Pettit, Douglas C. Wright III. Class of 2017: Daniel Oliver, Jr.; David N. Platt; Michael Sivy. To serve on the Board of Stewards: Peter Schermerhorn, Chief Steward; Eduard Cadmus; Michael Ferrara; Scott MacWhinnie; Sean G. O’Sullivan; Thomas F. Pike, Jr.; Graham P. Sulton.

Members of the Nominating Committee were: Jonathan C. Jones, Chairman; David N. Platt; William M. Manger, Jr.; Brian A.
Blake; Robert A. Naud; and Thomas F. Pike. The speaker for the evening was Carswell Rush Berlin, a private antique dealer in New York, who specializes in fine American formal furniture and decorative antiques from the years 1800 to 1840. He is also an adjunct professor at the School of Continuing Education at New York University, and he has lectured at Parsons School of Design and at a number of museums and decorative arts institutions. Articles of his have appeared in publications such as The Magazine Antiques, Architectural Digest, and Antiques and Fine Art Magazine.

Mr. Berlin’s authoritative presentation on Duncan Phyfe (1768–1854) included both biographical details and informed commentary on authentic examples of his furniture designs, as shown in PowerPoint illustrations. Phyfe was born in Scotland, as his name would suggest (Macbeth was thane of Fife), and came to the American colonies, settling first at Albany before coming to New York, where he was working as of 1792.
Berlin pointed out several phases in Phyfe’s designs over the years, from early Sheraton-like patterns to later Neo-Classical designs inspired by the discoveries of Pompeii and Herculaneum, as well as Greek vase paintings. Egyptian styles were also a significant influence on Phyfe’s work at this period.

According to Mr. Berlin, very few pieces remain with Phyfe’s original labels to identify them. The authenticity of others is shown by their provenance: for example, records of purchase kept by members of the Bayard family. Original, authentic Phyfe pieces generally stand out on account of the exceptionally high quality of the carving, which Mr. Berlin showed in close-up photos of several carved decorative details.

After appreciative applause for Mr. Berlin’s authoritative presentation, our evening was brought to a close with John Blake’s inimitable recitation of the toast to our ancestors, with descendants of those mentioned standing as their ancestors’ names were sounded.
A Word on the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen and Its First President, Robert Boyd, Jr.

The General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, at 20 West 44th Street, where the Saint Nicholas Society has its headquarters, was founded in 1785, shortly after the conclusion of the American Revolution. One of its original purposes was fraternal and benevolent: to provide assistance for members at a time when such things as health insurance and retirement pensions did not exist. The Society also provided important networking opportunities for those in the construction trades and allied occupations.

At an early period, the General Society also made educational programs a major priority. One of the first free schools in New York was founded by the Society in 1820, to offer basic education to children of members—at that time there were no New York City public schools as we know them. But as the New York public school system developed, the Society transformed their own school into a Mechanics Institute, specializing in education for qualified working men (whether or not related to members of the General Society), who could take vocational courses outside of working hours. Eventually the courses were opened to women also.

In 1820, in conjunction with its original school, the Society also opened a circulating library, one of the earliest in New York, and one of the few private circulating libraries still in operation. It has a wide range of books available to members of the Society, students at Mechanics Institute, and to registered members of the public.

Today the Society also offers public lectures and other educational and cultural events, and its building serves as headquarters for a number of non-profit organizations, including numerous hereditary societies such as the Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York.

The Saint Nicholas Society has an unexpected link to the General Society in that one of our members, George Boyd V, is a direct lineal descendant of a founding member of the General Society: Robert Boyd, Jr. (1734–1804), who also served as its first president.

According to a memo kindly sent by George Boyd V, Robert Boyd, Jr. was born at Ballyhalbert, co. Down, Ireland. After his arrival in the vicinity of Newburgh, New York, he became a blacksmith, and during the American Revolution he made guns for the Continental army. After the British evacuated New York City late in 1783, Boyd with many others came to help rebuild the city, and was involved in the founding of the General Society in 1785. In 1787 he was appointed sheriff of the County and City of New York, serving until 1791. He died at his house in New Windsor, New York, on October 29, 1804, aged 70. A portrait of Boyd, by Ralph Earle, is at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.
The Society is delighted to announce the donation of a pair of portraits, thought to have been painted around 1828, of John Jones and his wife Susan Barrett Jones. The significance of the portraits to the Society derives from the fact that John Jones was one of its founding members, joining on 28 February 1835. Although it cannot be definitively established without further research, it is believed that the portraits were executed by the artistic partnership of Waldo & Jewett.

Little is known about John Jones’ life or work, but some things are known about his family. He was the son of another John Jones and his wife, Eleanor Colford, who had a total of ten children. A brother, James I. Jones, who also was an original member of St. Nick (joining on the same date as his brother) owned a country house that became Jones Wood, described by one newspaper (in 1906) as “well remembered as a public pleasure ground by New Yorkers of middle age.” James Jones married Elizabeth Schermerhorn, whereby he (and John) became a brother in law of William Astor, married to Caroline Schermerhorn; Charles Suydam, married to Anna Schermerhorn; and John Treat Irving, married to Helen Schermerhorn. John T. Irving joined St. Nick in 1858. Anna Suydam’s son, Charles, joined in 1871. Two other Joneses in the record book were cousins of John Jones. It is evident that the Jones family was established in mid-19th century New York society – and provided more than one member to the Society.

The portraits, measuring approximately four feet by three, possess the traits and hallmarks of works by the artists Samuel Lovett Waldo and William Jewett. Waldo (1783–1861) was born in Connecticut, where he opened his first art studio in Hartford at the young age of 16. He began painting portraits and building a good reputation. He then moved to Charleston, South Carolina, where he was much in demand. In 1806 he went to England, supported by funding from patrons and his commission work. He studied formal British portraiture under Benjamin West, another American, at the Royal Academy of Arts. In 1809 he moved to New York and established himself as a studio portraitist in New York City.

Three years later Waldo met William Jewett (1789–1874), an aspiring young coach painter, who was seeking instruction as a fine artist. In 1817 the two men became partners and advertised themselves as Waldo and Jewett. They split their artistic duties, with Waldo painting the faces and hands, while Jewett completed the sitters’ clothing, draperies and background. They signed their collaborative paintings as “Waldo and Jewett.” The team specialized in portraits of prominent New Yorkers and merchants, public officials, and fellow artists. By choosing to be represented by Waldo and Jewett, leading portraitists of the day, John and Susan Jones were recording their position and conveying their importance to a public audience.

The faces of the Jones portraits are of a quality consistent with other known works by the duo, but these are not signed or, if they are, the signatures are not discernible. Therefore, it is not conclusively established that they are Waldo and Jewett works.

In researching John Jones, there was no record of his having married, though his family—parents and siblings—are abundantly documented on the Internet. The identification of the lady as Susan Barrett Jones is based on family tradition.

The heavy antique gilded frames are probably original. The works are a splendid gift to the Saint Nicholas Society from Bertram and Carol French. They belonged to his aunts who hung them in their Park Avenue apartment for many years. Over the summer President Bill Manger went there personally to transfer them to the office, where they now adorn the walls.

[Information about the artists Waldo and Jewett was obtained from www.avampatoart.com]

For several reasons, this truly impressive biography of Everardus Bogardus should be of prime interest to St. Nicholas members. First of all, a number of Society members are direct lineal descendants of Domine Everardus Bogardus (1607–1647), a minister of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York from 1633 to 1647, when he was lost in a shipwreck while sailing back to the Netherlands. Secondly, Bogardus was a major public figure in New Amsterdam, and his history is highly relevant for anyone concerned with the history of New Netherland. Thirdly, and not least important by any means, Frijhoff’s book is a model for how one can construct a full-scale, highly detailed biography of someone for whom specific biographical details are relatively few, especially by comparison to more recent historical figures, for whom extensive memoirs, letters, and other documents are available.

What Frijhoff has done is to reconstruct—in astounding detail—the general circumstances surrounding every phase of Bogardus’s fascinating career, and as a result he is able to give both a three-dimensional portrait, and at the same time an enlightening picture of life in the Dutch Republic, in Dutch regions of West Africa, and especially of life in New Netherland.

One may estimate the extent Frijhoff’s accomplishment by considering that this English translation by Myra Heerspink Scholz, over 600 pages long, is an abridgement of the author’s 928-page volume in Dutch, published earlier as: *Wegen van Evert Willemsz; een Hollands weeskind op zoek naar zichzelf 1607–1647* (Nijmegen: SUN publishers, 1995); the title might be translated as: “Pathways of Evert Willemsz: a Dutch orphan in search of himself.” “Willemsz” (“son of Willem”) was Bogardus’s patronymic, but very little is known of the orphan’s parentage.

Bogardus’s recorded life begins with his situation in the City of Woerden, located at a strategic position on the Rhine. The author fills in a rich tapestry of back- ground about Woerden in the early 1600s, so that the reader can begin to appreciate the political, social, and religious influences that surrounded the child as he grew up there, and had mystical and visionary experiences—as related in two pamphlets published in the 1620s—that helped direct him to a religious vocation. Frijhoff particularly explores the kind of education that Bogardus would have had, with the intellectual influences that led him to a career in the Church, although it remains unclear why his studies at Leiden University were abruptly cut short.

Nevertheless, Bogardus was able to qualify under the Classis of Amsterdam (the governing body of the Reformed Church) as a *ziekentrooster* or “comforter of the sick,” an ecclesiastical rank somewhat below that of a fully-qualified minister of the Church. He entered employment with the Chartered West India Company, and in 1630 was posted to the...
Guinea Coast of West Africa, where until about 1632 he remained at Fort Nassau, or Mouri (or Moree), a short distance east of Cape Coast Castle, a British post. At that period Mouri was one of several Dutch-controlled areas of the Gold Coast, now Ghana. Frijhoff’s extensive research reveals many details about the Reformed Church efforts in West Africa at the time, and the kinds of conditions that Bogardus encountered there.

Back in the Netherlands in 1632, Bogardus became a regular minister, and was appointed to go to New Netherland, where he arrived in 1633, and where he was to spend the rest of his ecclesiastical career. As a leading citizen in the relatively small city, he played a prominent role in the affairs of his day. He also married and had children, and there are numerous descendants today, as described in publications by William Brower Bogardus.

In the wake of acrimonious disputes over the Indian policies of Director General Kieft, Domine Bogardus—Frijhoff states—“clearly felt an urgent need to return to the fatherland in order to defend himself in front of the proper authorities and clear his name” (p. 548). He sailed from New Amsterdam on board the Prinses Amelia on August 16 or 17, 1647, only to be lost in a shipwreck in the English Channel on the night of September 27, 1647 (p. 550).

The author, in summing up his effort in this book, concludes: “The attempt here has been to approach the man in terms of the autonomy of his self-image, his lifestyle, and his life project, and to uncover the motivations that inspired him. In short, to explore what he managed to make of his life, out of the cultural traditions available to him, in interaction with others, and under the pressure of changing circumstances. To follow him in his quest for himself. To discover how he fulfilled his God-given mission” (p. 568).

Bogardus’s story is impressive, and Frijhoff’s book is a brilliant achievement that tells us not only about the orphan from Woerden who became a leading minister in Manhattan, but also much about the Dutch Republic, about the Chartered West India Company, about the Guinea Coast of West Africa, and about New Netherland. It is a rich and immensely rewarding book to be carefully read and to return to and study again and again.


This classic study of Indian affairs in New Netherland and British colonial New York makes an excellent companion to Frijhoff’s wide-ranging biography of Everardus Bogardus. In Trelease’s book one can find careful scholarly analyses of the trading and diplomatic relations between the Dutch and the Indians. Trelease closely discusses the conditions in which brutal Indian wars developed under Director General Kieft—conditions that had an urgent impact upon Everardus Bogardus’s career as a minister of the Reformed Church (see above review of biography by Willem Frijhoff).

The publisher of this book, Albert Vanderheide, offers an extensive line of books and other materials relating not only to New Netherland, but also to Dutch culture in general. Details are available at the publisher’s website: www.GoDutch.com/store.
New Members Elected

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<td>Austin Whaley Bramwell</td>
<td>Sept. 17, 2013</td>
<td>John Youngs</td>
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<td>Archer Christian Burke</td>
<td>Sept. 17, 2013</td>
<td>Andrew Dunscomb</td>
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<td>Terence Michael Martin, Jr.</td>
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<td>William Hammersley</td>
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Necrology

The Society has received notice of the death of the following members:

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<th>Name</th>
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Calendar of Events

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<td>Feast of St. Nicholas</td>
<td>The Union Club</td>
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<td>Jan. 13, 2014</td>
<td>Board of Managers Meeting</td>
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<td>Feb. 6, 2014</td>
<td>Winter Stated Meeting</td>
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<td>April 4, 2014</td>
<td>Paas Heritage Ball</td>
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<td>April 28, 2014</td>
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