

● PSF

Nether lands

1934-39

COPY OF LONGHAND LETTER

PS F Netherlands

January 30, 1934.

Your Majesty---

I am asking Mr. Emmet to give you this personal message of my cordial greetings and respects.

As you may know, the Netherlands is the land of my forebears of my family and I have cherished a sentiment of affection for and deep interest in your nation.

I am therefore glad indeed that I am able to entrust the relationships between the Netherlands and the United States to Mr. Emmet, who is one of my oldest personal friends. I am certain that you will find him a delightful gentleman who will further the many mutual interests of our countries.

With every good wish for your Majesty's continued well-being.

I am,

Faithfully yours,

P. J.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Her Majesty,
Wilhelmina,
Queen of the Netherlands.

PS F Netherlands

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Not sent
see copy*

Your Majesty:

I am happy to transmit through Mr. Grenville T. Emmet, whom You have graciously consented to receive as the representative of the United States near Your Majesty's Government, my cordial greetings and respects.

Owing, in part, to the Netherland origin of certain of my forefathers, I have long entertained a sentiment of affection for Holland and I have, therefore, entrusted the conduct of the diplomatic relationships between the Netherlands and the United States to a personal friend of many years' standing. I am certain that You will have Mr. Emmet's sincere cooperation in considering any problems which may touch the mutual interests of our countries and which You may desire to discuss with him.

With every good wish for Your Majesty's continued well-being, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Her Majesty
Wilhelmina,
Queen of the Netherlands,
The Hague.

File

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 30, 1934.

Dear Mr. President:

In response to your request, I send you herewith a draft letter to the Queen of the Netherlands, which you may possibly care to consider in connection with the letter which you propose to write.

Faithfully yours,

William Phillips

The President

The White House.

BF Netherland

THE LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
The Hague, Netherlands,
January 31, 1935.

My dear Mr. President:

Shortly after my return here I was notified by the Foreign Office that Queen Wilhelmina would receive me in private audience on Tuesday, January 29th, at the House in the Woods, where she is living this winter. Owing to the death of the Queen Mother just after my arrival last March, the subsequent death of the Prince Consort, and after that the illness of the Queen, it had not been possible to arrange for my private reception by Her Majesty. During my absence in America she received some of the other diplomats to whom she had not previously given an audience, and I was glad that she indicated that she would like to receive me so soon after my return.

I thought you would be interested in hearing about the reception, as the Queen seemed to be immensely interested in you and devoted most of the interview to asking me questions about you and your activities. At this interview I took occasion to deliver to her the private letter which you gave me last January at the White House just before I left to assume charge of this Mission.

At six o'clock in the afternoon of January 29th I called at the House in the Woods and was met there by Jonkheer de Graeff, the Foreign Minister, together with Count du Monceau, the Grand Master of Ceremonies, and Jonkheer Dedel and Jonkheer Sickinghe,

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Chamberlains of Her Majesty's household. We were shortly asked to proceed to one of the small parlors, where the Queen received me quite informally. Jonkheer de Graeff introduced me and she immediately expressed regret that she had not been able to arrange for a previous interview. I expressed the pleasure I had in delivering to her a personal letter from you and assured her of your best wishes for herself and this nation.

Thereupon the Queen proceeded to converse with me, in perfect English, chiefly about yourself. She was interested to hear of our long-standing friendship and that we were both graduates of Harvard University. She wanted to know to what extent you kept up your interest in the University and in other universities in America, and then asked a number of questions about the curricula in American universities and to what extent supervision was exercised over the students by the faculty. She wanted to know how much American universities, and particularly Harvard University, resembled English universities in this respect and whether any American university was following the English system of separate colleges. She expressed great interest in learning that this system was now being tried at Harvard in a somewhat modified form and was also being introduced at Yale, also that the tutorial system was being developed. She appeared to know a good deal about Harvard University, and spoke of its distinction in scholarship. She asked whether there was any movement under way in America to promote facilities for the exchange of American and European students between American and European universities, and upon my telling her that there was a considerable movement with this end in view, and that in America we had various scholarships endowed for this purpose, she seemed to be much interested, and remarked that

there appeared to be an international brotherhood among students. I expressed the opinion that in America we felt very strongly that way.

The Queen then asked whether you found time to take any vacations from your strenuous and arduous labors and recalled that she had heard that you visited Hot Springs for recreation. I explained to her the difference between Warm Springs and Hot Springs. She wanted to know what form of recreation interested you and was much interested when I told her that you were fond of boating and yachting and also that you usually sailed your own boat and were thoroughly familiar with navigation. She asked me to what extent you were able to gratify your fondness for sailing, and then asked me a good deal about the general subject of sailing and yachting in America and compared it with yachting in Holland which, as you probably know, is quite popular here. She seemed interested to hear about Long Island Sound and the Maine Coast as good sailing waters, particularly as compared with the North Sea and some of the inland lakes in Holland.

After conversing for about fifteen minutes, she said that she would take no more of my time, and bade me goodbye, saying again that she had been glad of this opportunity to meet me, and I thereupon withdrew. Altogether the ceremony was simple, unaffected and conducted with great dignity. She spoke English without an accent, in a most cultivated, pretty way. The Queen is quite regal in manner but most unaffected and informal in her approach, and I thought you would be glad to know how well the ceremony went off.

We are back in our house and comfortably settled for the winter. Thank you again for all your kindness to me while I was in Washington. It

goes without saying that I enjoyed my short visit to America enormously but also I am very glad to be back here.

With my best wishes to yourself and Eleanor, believe me to be,

Faithfully yours,

Frederic T. Dennis

P.S. Ioo had about the
World Court - I was very
much disappointed -

DEPARTMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Hague.



S. S. BREMEN
via Cherbourg

Personal

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.,
U.S.A.

Through Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand.

PSF
Netherlands

May 2, 1935.

Dear Grenville:-

I was delighted to have your letter of April first and have not answered until I could find out how the Secretary felt in regard to your going to the East Indies. I enclose his memorandum which speaks for itself.

Do keep me in touch with conditions as you find them and as you hear about them. As you know, I am always much interested to have that kind of information.

Louis Howe is better physically, except for the bad heart condition, than he has been in years. Of course, he still spends most of his time under an oxygen tent, but his interest in everything is as keen as ever.

My legislative program seems to be going forward steadily though slowly. However, I hope that the Congress will act on all the measures so that I shall not have to call them back.

Eleanor joins me in best wishes to you and Pauline.

Always sincerely,

Honorable Grenville T. Emmet,
American Legation,
The Hague,
Netherlands.

(Enclosure)

the rubber and oil industries as well as the many other imports we take from the Netherland East Indies is essential to effectively carry out my work here.

When I spoke to you about the matter, you thought it was a good plan and said that you would bear it in mind. I also took up the subject with Secretary of State Hull and Under Secretary William Phillips. They, too, both thought well of it and approved the plan. Mr. Phillips went so far as to definitely take it up with the Department and told me the day I left Washington that the Department favored it but felt that such action at that moment might be misconstrued by the Japanese as unfriendly. You will recall that this was just at the time when Japan denounced the Washington Naval Treaty and Mr. Phillips said that the Department felt it was perhaps an delicate time to send the American Minister out to Netherland India, particularly as the Netherland Indian Government was in rather a tense situation with the Japanese over the trade situation in the Netherland Indies. I felt that the position of the Department was an entirely reasonable one and, of course, nothing was further from my thought than to suggest anything which could be mis-

misconstrued or misunderstood by the Japanese, but now that the denunciation of the Naval Treaty by the Japanese is a fait accompli, and the Netherland Indies Government has adjourned the trade conference, it seems to me that the autumn months of this year would be the time for me to go. I would propose going by air on account of the time element involved, so that my absence from The Hague would not be prolonged more than is necessary. Besides, I think I could make arrangements with the Royal Dutch Air Lines so that the expense of flying would not greatly exceed the rate by sea.

While in the Netherland Indies I should, of course, want to report to the Department on such questions as seem to me of sufficient importance to warrant it, but I feel sure that the Consul General in Batavia would be able to give me sufficient clerical assistance for that purpose, so I would not wish or expect any secretarial help to accompany me. I should, however, like to take Pauline.

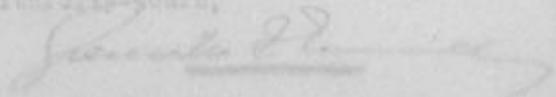
In all the whirl of your busy, active, important life, I hesitate to inject anything to distract your attention but if you still approve of my idea about

going to the Netherland Indies, would you tell the State Department so?

European conditions continue absorbing and interesting. A good deal represents gestures rather than actualities, but there is no doubt that the situation is confused and full of uncertainties and possibilities that are hard to visualize. The reports I get about Germany all seem to agree that the recent conscription edict was, partially at least, for home consumption in order to take the attention of the people off the very grave and distressing financial and economic conditions which appear to be close on the brink of collapse; also that Russia and the East are more alarming to Hitler than Western Europe. I had a talk with Foreign Minister de Graeff this afternoon. He had met Sir John Simon as he came through Amsterdam on his way home from Berlin after seeing Hitler. According to Mr. de Graeff Sir John Simon felt that Hitler was far more concerned with the Russian situation on Germany's East than he was with Western Europe, - in fact, he was not particularly concerned about his relations with Western Europe.

Jesse Straus, whom I saw on Sunday, told me

Faithfully yours,



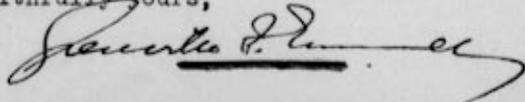
that the French are worried and feel that Hitler's conscription edict is going to delay or prolong any intelligent solution of the European question. When I was in Italy last week for a few days, I got the impression that the Italian reaction in calling out an increased army was largely a gesture, just as I am inclined to believe Abyssinia was. Here in Holland, curiously enough, I find that public opinion and the newspaper reports are not so unfriendly and hostile to the German conscription decree as I would have expected them to be.

I am delighted to see by the papers that Louis Howe is getting better and I know how relieved you must be. Please give him my best regards.

I hope you are standing the strain of this Congressional session and that you are not wearing yourself out with all the multifarious activities in which you are involved. Grenville Junior told me that you were kind enough to see him one afternoon when he went down to Washington looking for a job. Thank you so much.

Please remember me to Eleanor and with my best wishes in which Pauline joins, believe me to be,

Faithfully yours,





LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
The Hague, Netherlands,
June 15, 1935.

PSF Netherlands

*file
Basmat
Netherlands*

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your letter of the other day giving me the reaction of the State Department to my going out to the Dutch East Indies as a part of the work of this post. I regret the Department's decision but I understand their position perfectly and acquiesce whole-heartedly in their ruling. Perhaps some day, while I am here, they may want me to go and, if so, I will learn a lot that will be of benefit to the United States and its Minister to the Netherlands.

I have just got back from a trip to Czechoslovakia which Pauline and I took by motor, driving ourselves. I spent four days in Prague and saw considerable of the Butler Wrights, which was a great pleasure. He is most enthusiastic about his post and is very popular with everyone. After all

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

the pessimism over the condition of the beautiful old palace which houses the American Legation, it has now been put in excellent order, arranged attractively by the Wrights, and does the U.S.A. great credit. I was much interested in the political questions affecting Czechoslovakia but they differ so radically from those affecting this country that it is difficult to grasp them in a few days. In Czechoslovakia there are several millions of Germans whereas here there are probably not more than a hundred thousand all told, and in Czechoslovakia the counteracting influences of Austria as well as Hungary are playing strong whereas here they do not exist or are negligible.

My work here continues interesting and busy. The political situation of this country is certainly not static and at the moment it seems to me there is considerable likelihood of political changes arising directly or indirectly from the issue of devaluation, which is coming more and more to the front as a political question. As I have frequently advised the Department and I think told you, this country has

had hard sledding and gone through hard times as a result of following a policy of deflation rather than devaluation. However, the banking situation here is so strong and the pillars of the arch which was built to bridge over or avoid devaluation are so sturdy in the shape of men like Colijn and Trip, that purely as a practical question it has up to the present seemed likely that the Government could continue on the present gold standard for a considerable time. However, the devaluation influence as opposed to the deflation influence has increased considerably, and it now begins to look as though the whole currency and financial policy of the Government might come into the open in Parliament on the passage of the Economy Bill, which is now pending and which will begin to be debated about July 1st. Recently there have been two resignations from the Cabinet, one by Minister of Education Marchant who gave as his reason that he had adopted the Roman Catholic faith and could no longer represent the Independent Democratic Party; and the other resignation by Mr. Steenberghe, the Minister of Economic Affairs, who was a prominent member of the Catholic Party and who gave as the reason

of his resignation that he was not in sympathy with the Government's policy of deflation as opposed to devaluation. It seems to me not unlikely that further defections will occur among the Government ranks and the opinion is expressed on many sides that the Government may not be able to pass the Economy Bill without considerable amendment. If the Government should be defeated on the Economy Bill, it might easily lead to a change of Government. Altogether it is an interesting situation to observe and follow.

Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, United States Minister to Denmark, is coming to spend the week-end with us and we are giving her a dinner party tomorrow night. I met her last winter at the White House one afternoon when I stopped in to have tea with Eleanor, and Mrs. Owen and I arranged then that she would come and see us this spring.

Last month we entertained the delegates to the Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe which met here, as well as the delegation of American Garden Lovers who came over to see the tulips and attend the Flower Show. One day we had a buffet luncheon for

one hundred and fifty persons at the Legation and a few days later an afternoon tea and reception for over two hundred, so that for a short time Pauline and I were kept very busy attending to the social side of our visiting compatriots.

I hope you are well and are standing the terrific strain of your life in Washington. I know how tremendous is the pressure under which you live and I hope you are able to get some relaxation from time to time. I am sure it is gratifying to you to see the way the country is responding to the N.R.A. decision and that it is obviously the wish of the rank and file of the people that the principles which the N.R.A. embodies be perpetuated.

With best wishes, believe me to be,

Faithfully yours,

Juliette F. Emery

PSF Netherlands

*file
Kusmaal*

RECEIVED BY THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
The Hague, Netherlands,
October 24, 1935.

Dear Mr. President:

I am coming home on a short trip next week, sailing November 3rd, and am looking forward to seeing you in Washington. As I am busy here, and there are many things on hand, I shall not be in the United States for more than three weeks, and of that time, I want to spend a considerable portion at Washington, arriving about November 10th.

This country has managed to survive the various squalls which threatened to send her off the Gold Standard last summer and the guilder looks now secure for the time being at any rate.

As you know, Holland is making her contribution to the action of the League of Nations in applying sanctions against Italy. Jonkheer de Graeff, the Foreign Minister, whom you remember when he was Dutch Minister in Washington, was offered the job of presiding over one of the sanctions committees of the League of Nations, but out of abundant caution he declined. However, Holland is already enacting the necessary legislation to enable her to comply with the sanctions already passed, and is rapidly implementing herself to effectively do her part.

Pauline sends her affectionate regards to you and Eleanor; she is not coming to America with me as both Patricia and little Pauline are over here, so she will stay on the same side of the

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

ocean as they are. I hope you had a fine trip out West and got in some good fishing on your way home.

Looking forward to seeing you in Washington next month, believe me to be,

Faithfully yours,

Francis J. Russell

PSE
File Netherlands
Drawer 2-36

March 7, 1936.

Dear Grenville:-

Many thanks for your interesting letter. I am delighted to have the information about Vossemeer. Undoubtedly the Roosevelts of that place were kinsmen but, of course, the key of the Vossemeer connection would lie in discovering any definite record of the first Roosevelt who came to this country and from whom all the Roosevelts in America are descended. His name in the church records of New Amsterdam is perfectly clear and we have the full family line from him and his children down to date.

He was Clas (Klaas) Martensen van Roosevelt (Rosevelt). According to the custom of the day it is probable that the use of his middle name signified that he was the son of Marten or Martin van Roosevelt.

His wife's name appears in two forms - Jannetje Samuel and Jannetje Thomas. Again, according to the custom of the day, it is probably that she was the daughter of Samuel Thomas or Thomas Samuel. Her father, of course, may have had another surname, making his whole name Samuel Thomas _____ or Thomas Samuel _____. If any definite record can be discovered in Holland which would disclose any of these names the case would be proved.

All you say about the general European situation is most interesting and is complicated by news this morning that Germany is taking some step in regard to Locano.

Love to Pauline in which Eleanor joins.

As ever yours,

Honorable Grenville T. Emmet,
American Legation,
The Hague,
Netherlands.

P.S. It will be grand if you come back in August and stay through September. You can help much in many ways.

PSF Netherlands



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Hague, Netherlands,
February 26, 1936.

I also enclose you a photograph of the Roosevelt
coat of arms by itself; I wonder if it is correct. Also

My dear Mr. President:

I am sending you some data on the Dutch origin of
the Roosevelt family which I hope will interest you.

About six weeks ago an article appeared in the
LONDON TELEGRAPH concerning the Dutch ancestry of the
Roosevelts in Holland. I enclose you the article in
question and also a photograph of the overmantel in
the town hall of Vossemeer, in Zeeland, where the
Roosevelt coat of arms appears and where also they
point out a house in which one of your ancestors lived.
The photograph is quite clear and you will see on it
the arms of a number of well-known Dutch families of
the present day; Snouck Hurgronje, for instance, whose
arms appear twice, - once on each side of the picture,
is one of the best known Dutch families. Arnold Snouck
Hurgronje is at present Secretary General of the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs. His position somewhat resembles
that held by Bill Phillips in our State Department.

In the same direction as the 114 in 1914, would probably
President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

I also enclose you a photograph of the Roosevelt coat of arms by itself; I wonder if it is correct. Also a picture of the town hall at Vossemeer, bearing date of Anno 1775, in which the Roosevelt arms appear and also a photograph of the house in Vossemeer supposed to have been occupied by one of your ancestors. It occurred to me that these might be of interest to some genealogically-minded member of the family, and so I am sending them on to you. Also a copy of an article appearing in the Dutch paper, DE TELEGRAAF, of January 1, 1936, in which there is an account of the fame your family name has brought to Vossemeer, which I have had translated and send to you herewith.

The activities of armament building and war preparation continue unabated in Europe. I have kept the State Department fully advised as to what is happening in this country which is, of course, of significance in view of its geographical position. Belgium and France, in cooperation, have reinforced and built up their fortifications to a point where Germany, if she ever went in the same direction as she did in 1914, would probably be forced to go across that narrow peninsula-shaped point military preparations in the making on all sides, - and

of Holland comprising a portion of the Province of Limburg. At one part it is only about three miles wide. The result has been that Holland has commenced with energy and speed to build up and reinforce its defenses so that it will be in a position to contest the advance of any invader. Neither the newspapers nor the public officials make any secret of it. In view of what Germany has done in building up her army and what Belgium in connection with France is doing in building up her army and strengthening her defenses, the Dutch frankly say that they are going to do the same. In addition to the annual budgetary allowance for the army, the Second Chamber recently passed a bill authorizing the expenditure of fifty-three million florins, a large sum for this country, for the strengthening and upbuilding of the army and navy. A considerable portion of it will be used in the Dutch East Indies. Already seven bombing planes for service in Dutch India have been ordered from the Glenn Martin Company in the United States, and it is expected that orders for about twenty-thirty more will be placed in the next year or so.

With the danger signal flying in the shape of military preparations in the making on all sides,- and

of course England is in it on a big scale,- you naturally wonder where the trouble is going to begin, and when. That is not so easy to put your finger on at the moment. I think one of the things for which you must give Hitler credit (and there are not many in that category) is that he has perceptibly eased the anti-French feeling in Germany. In some way he has turned the nations's swivel, and the front of bitter German hatred of France, which always was so much in evidence, seems to have been turned in some other direction. It seems to me that fear of Russia is more pronounced. My feeling is that Hitler really has not at the moment deep designs against the French. He is more concerned with what Russia and Poland are doing and also Czechoslovakia. Perhaps, to be fair, one should give Laval some credit for this too. Now that the latter is out, there may be a change, particularly as the Franco-Soviet Pact is up for debate in France and is backed by Flandin.

Accept my heartiest congratulations on the fine move you made in Pan-America. It came at a most opportune time and will have good results. On Washington's birthday I had, as usual, a luncheon for all the Pan-American

diplomats in service here, including two Judges from the Court of International Justice - from Salvador and Colombia. Everyone spoke in the highest terms of what you have done towards solidifying and unifying Pan-American relations and setting an example to the rest of the world for correct behavior in international affairs. Your call for a conference to consolidate peace in North and South America met with an enthusiastic response.

The Italian-Ethiopian war seems to be going more in favor of Italy. Taliani, the Italian Minister here, whom I see a good deal, tells me that he thinks the League of Nations is over and that England is in an embarrassing situation. Taliani is undoubtedly very clever. He has just written an excellent book on Russia, - notes of a diary he kept when he was on post in Russia at the time of the revolution. It had a great success in Italy and France and will be translated into English. I will send you a copy when it comes out.

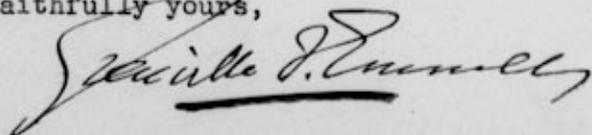
As I told you when I saw you in Washington last November, I want to do what I can to help this summer and I expect to come to America for six weeks or so.

You told me that I might be able to help you in New York and I will, of course, be delighted to do any kind of speech making or missionary work that Jim Farley or Forbes Morgan think desirable. As to the best time to come, I had rather figured on August and the first half of September, although if you think any other time would be better, I can make my plans accordingly. The impression I get over here is that you will be reflected without much difficulty. I suppose there are certain spots where there may be defections, but that is natural enough and they do not cause me much concern. The news I get from New York is satisfactory; there is to be expected some uphill work there - but Al Smith seems to have been a flop and the opposition will melt under the sun of returning prosperity.

Please forgive this long letter, and with affectionate remembrances to Eleanor, believe me to be,

As ever,

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lucille J. Russell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Faithfully yours,". The name "Lucille J. Russell" is written in a fluid, connected style with a prominent flourish at the end.

P.S. I was sorry to see in the paper yesterday the death

- 7 -

of your cousin, Henry L. Roosevelt, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Although I had not met him, he was doing a fine job in your old shoes and everyone spoke highly of him.

IN THE CRADLE OF THE ROOSEVELTS

Oude-Vossemeer on the Isle of Tolen

Does the family of America's President descend
from this place?

The traveler who has passed Steenberg and goes straight west into Zeeland, reaches the forgotten village of Oud-Vossemeer, where the forefathers of President Roosevelt are supposed to have lived. This secret was revealed by the Archives. A great President originated from a small Zeeland village. Will this fact make the village famous?

We are going to have a look at this little place, of which we once heard the name because it lies in the Netherlands but of which we have never even seen the church tower, because it is far away, hidden in the Realm of Loneliness.

To Oud-Vossemeer, the road leads through the low land, which is deadly quiet. Nothing but an extensive, empty field, along a road lined with willows and paved with rough cobbles, - nothing but peace and quiet; at the crossroads we see a hotel called "De Zwarte Ruiters" (The Black Horseman). Then we cross the wide Eendracht Canal, taking the ferry, which is the only vessel. Two men on wooden shoes operate it by drawing a cable; their rhythmic steps making the impression of a folklore dance.

On the other side of this wide water, we find OUD-VOSSEMEER, the village of the Roosevelts, a village which is just the same as it was centuries ago. It lives its own very modest life, having a town-hall with one room and a Church, in which is located the 'Chandelier of Roosevelt'.

Is it true that the President of the United States is of Zeeland blood? Is the great discovery correct that the forefathers of this Roosevelt perhaps lived here for centuries? Was the Zeeland farmer K l a a s Roosevelt who, accompanied by his Zeeland wife, J a n n e t j e G o v e r t s went to America, a long time ago, the forefather of the President?

Letters from the United States, sent a short while ago to Mr. W.P.F. van Deventer, director of the General Netherland Tourist Association, led an inquiry. A group of Roosevelt's admirers over there, in America, came to the conclusion that the President of the United States sprang from a Netherland generation. Mr. van Deventer followed up the investigations in Zeeland, and a few days ago a meeting held at the town-hall in Oud-Vossemeer was devoted to the question. This meeting was attended by members of the Board of the Provincial Tourist Traffic Association, the burgomaster (mayor) Dr. J.J. Versluys, and the Secretary.

Is the President descended from a Zeeland family? What do the old baptism registers say? What have the old yellow documents in the archives to tell us?

We had an interview with Mr. van Deventer.

The polished brass bears the following inscription:

The baptism registers, which can disclose the absolute proof of Roosevelt's descend~~x~~, are now kept by the State Archivist at Middelburg, Mr. van Deventer said. The archivist was instructed by the Minister of Education to make an investigation. In the history of Oud-Vossemeer Roosevelt's name is often found, be it with one "o".

(In this connection it may be noted that in the eighteenth century there was no definite rule for the spelling of proper names. The same name was often written in different ways in the various deeds or documents, so that "oo" or "o"; a "d" instead of a "t"; an "s" in place of a "z"; the prefix of "van" does not make much difference).

The Roosevelts were a family of treasurers (land agents) and one of the descendants was Secretary at the town-hall of Rotterdam, where in the St. Laurence Church a tombstone is found bearing his name. In Oud-Vossemeer there are still three homesteads which belonged to the Roosevelts.

The investigations are being continued with diligence. Persons well versed in the history of Vossemeer are searching old books, and the inhabitants of the village have a kind of devotion for the big brass chandelier in the Netherland Reformed Church, a present of one of President Roosevelt's forefathers.

The polished brass bears the following inscription:

"Johannis van Rosevelt, formerly schoolmaster at Scherpenisse, son of the late Pieter van Rosevelt, formerly schoolmaster and verger at Oud-Vossemeer. To and for the use of this Church."

The town-hall also guards its memories of this famous name. This small, pleasant town-hall, where burgomaster and municipal council meet in the same room, where civil marriage ceremonies are performed, and where all official ceremonies of Vossemeer take place, serves also for the meetings of the proprietors of the building. For the town-hall of Vossemeer is the property of the Manor of Oud and Nieuw Vossemeer and Vrijberghe,- an old Manor House placed at the disposal of the Commune (municipality).

It contains only one special ornament, the mantle piece, bearing the coats of arms of many old portly families. At the top, on the right-hand side of this group of arms, there is the emblem of the Roosevelts. This is a so-called canting arms. Above the partition line a chevron with three roses, under it a climbing lion, probably the heraldic figure of an allied family.

This coat of arms, at least the portion containing the chevron and the three roses, is supposed to belong to the Roosevelt who went to America.....

The inhabitants of Oud-Vossemeer are discussing the fame of their village - but are quietly waiting for what will happen. Perhaps this celebrity might attract foreigners; if so, so much the better, - it may contribute to the prosperity of their village. For Oud-Vossemeer also has its cares, even if it would seem that it has escaped the influence of the times. When we visited the town-hall we found a list of unemployed, 272 out of a population of 2263, all of them agricultural workers having no means of subsistence.

Oud-Vossemeer, "Roosevelt's Village", is entering upon the New Year with a possibility of new celebrity.

The Tourist Traffic Association is not letting this opportunity pass and is making further researches into the history of a great name; and what about Roosevelt himself?

"Nothing doing", a villager complained, "He does not care. When the Church, in which 'his' chandelier is hanging, had to be repaired, a request was made, asking him to contribute, but nothing has come of it.

IN DE BAKERMAT VAN DE ROOSEVELTS

OUD-VOSSEMEER OP TOLEN.

l. 6. Stam van hier de familie
van Amerika's
President?
201 26

OUDE HERINNERINGEN

Bij het hotel „de Zwarte Rulter“ gaat u
links af. Dan krijgt u de pont en over
het water ligt Oud-Vossemeer.

Ja, zoo komt de reiziger, die Steenberg en achter
zich heeft en regelrecht naar het Westen
het land der Zeeuwen tegemoet gaat, in het
vergeven dorpje, waar de voorouders van pre-
sident Roosevelt geleefd zouden hebben. De ar-
chieven hebben dit geheim onthuld: een groot
president stamt uit een klein Zeeuwsch dorp.
Zal dit de roem van het dorp worden?

Nu, wij gaan dat dorp eens zien. Dat plaatsje,
waarvan wij den naam eens hoorden omdat het
Nederland is, maar waarvan wij nooit den ker-
ktoren zagen, doordat het ver weg, en heel al-
leen ligt weggealoten in het Rijk der Eenzaam-
heid.

Naar Oud-Vossemeer: dóór het lage land,
dat stiller is dan stil. Door steeds dat wijde,
leeg veld, langs dien wilgen-weg met ruwe
klinkers, langs het bolwerk van rust en stilte,
een klein wit huis op een splitsing van dien
weg: hotel „de Zwarte Rulter“! En dan over
de breede Eendracht, met een pont, die het
eenige vaartuig is! Twee knechts met klompen
trekken aan den kabel, met wonderlijk rhyth-
mische passen, die als een folkloristische dans
zijn.

Achter dit breede, golvende water ligt
Oud-Vossemeer, het dorp der Roosevelts,
Een dorp, dat is zooals het eeuwen geleden
was. Dat een heel beschelden eigen leven
leeft, waar een raadhuis is met slechts
één vertrek, waar de kerk is met „de Kroon
van Roosevelt.“

ZEEUWEN?

Is het waar, dat de president der Ver. Staten
van Zeeuwschen bloede is? Is de groote ont-
dekking juist, dat hier het voorgeslacht van
dezen Roosevelt misschien eeuwen heeft ge-
leefd? Is de Zeeuwsche landbouwer Klaas
Roosevelt, die met zijn Zeeuwsche jonge
vrouw, Jannetje Goverts naar het verre
Amerika trok, de voorvader van den president?

Brieven uit de Ver. Staten, korten tijd geleden
toegezonden aan den heer W. P. F. van De-
venter, directeur van de A. N. V. V. hebben
het onderzoek naar deze vraag ingeleid. Ginds



De kroonluchter in de Ned. Herv. kerk te Oud-Vossemeer, welke een Van Rosevelt ge-
schonken heeft.

tilleeren is, bevinden zich thans onder beheer
van den rijksarchivaris te Middelburg, deelde
de directeur der A. N. V. V. mede. En aan hem
heeft de minister van Onderwijs een onderzoek
naar deze kwestie opgedragen. In de geschie-
denis van Oud-Vossemeer komt de naam Ro-
osevelt herhaaldelijk voor, zij het met één o.
(Gelijk men weet, stond nog in de 18e eeuw de
schrijfwijze van eigennamen niet vast. Men
spelde dikwijls zijn eigennaam onder verschie-
lende acten op verschillende wijzen, zoodat één
of twee o's, d of t op 't eind, „van“ voor den
naam, s of z geen verschil maakt!)

Het was een geslacht van rentmeesters,
en een der afstammelingen is zelfs secre-
taris van de gemeente Rotterdam geweest.
Daar bevindt zich nog in de St. Laurens-
kerk een grafsteen met zijn naam. In Oud-
Vossemeer bestaan nu nog drie hofsteden,
die aan de Rosevelts hebben toebehoord.

IJVERIG ONDERZOEK.

Het onderzoek gaat voort. Kenners van de ge-

den wij ook dáár werkloozen — landarbeiders,
die niet meer kunnen bestaan. Een dorp van
2263 inwoners, van wie 272 in de lijst der
werkloozen zijn ingeschreven.... neen, hier
komt de bevolking er óók niet zonder zorgen
door!

Oud-Vossemeer, „het dorp van Roosevelt“
gaat het nieuwe jaar in met een kans op nieu-
wen roem. De Vereeniging voor Vreemdelingen-
verkeer laat die gelegenheid niet voorbijgaan





Het wapen van een der Van Rosevelts. De krul boven het schild is slechts versiering. Het eigenlijke familiewapen is de keper met de drie rozen, een z.g. sprekend wapen.

In Amerika is een schare bewonderaars van Roosevelt tot de conclusie gekomen, dat de president uit een Nederlandsch geslacht stamt. De heer Van Deventer zette in Zeeland de nasporingen voort, en enkele dagen geleden is er in Oud-Vossemeer's gemeentehuis zelfs een vergadering aan gewijd. Daar kwamen bestuursleden van de Provinciale Vereeniging voor Vreemdelingen Verkeer bijeen. Daar waren ook de burgemeester, mr. J. J. Versluys en de secretaris van deze gemeente aanwezig. Stamt de president uit een Zeeuwsch geslacht? Wat zeggen de oude doopboeken? Wat weten de vergeelde documenten uit het archief hieromtrent mede te deelen?

Wij hebben een onderhoud gehad met den

IJVERIG ONDERZOEK.

Het onderzoek gaat voort. Kenners van de geschiedenis van Vossemeer snuffelen in oude boeken, en de andere bewoners van deze plaats zien met extra liefde op naar de groote koperen kroonlamp in de Ned. Hervormde Kerk, een

cadeau van een der „voorvaderen van president Roosevelt”.

In het glanzend koper gegrift, staan deze woorden:

„Johannis van Rosevelt, in leven schoolmeester te Scherpenisse, zoon van wijlen Pieter van Rosevelt, in leven schoolmeester en koster te Oud-Vossemeer. Aan en ten gebruike van deze kerk”.

Ook het raadhuis bewaart zijn herinneringen aan dezen beroemden naam. Dit kleine, fraaie gemeentehuis, waar burgemeester en raadsleden vergaderen in hetzelfde vertrek, waar alle paartjes trouwen, waar heel Vossemeer's officieele bestaan zich voltrekt en waar ook zij vergaderen, die eigenaars van het bouwwerk zijn!

Want het stadhuis te Vossemeer is eigendom van „De Ambachtsheerlijkheid van Oud- en Nieuw Vossemeer en Vrijberghe N.V.” Een oud „Ambachts-Heerenhuis”, ter beschikking gesteld van de gemeente.

Slechts één bijzonder décor bevat dit gemeentehuis: den schoorsteenmantel, waarop de wapens van vele oude, deftige families zijn uitgebeeld. Geheel bovenaan, rechts van deze wapen-serie, bevindt zich het embleem der Rosevelts.

Het is een z.g. „sprekend” wapen. Boven de deellijn een keper, vergezeld van drie rozen, er onder een klimmende leeuw, deze vermoedelijk de wapenfiguur van een geallieerde familie.

Dit wapen, of ten minste het deel met de keper en de drie rozen, zou dus ook aan den Roosevelt uit Amerika behooren....

De bewoners van Oud-Vossemeer spreken over den ontwakenden roem van hun dorp — maar zij wachten rustig af. Misschien zou zulk een vermaardheid vreemdelingen kunnen trekken: des te beter, hun dorp kan er wel bij varen.

NIEUWE ZORGEN.



Het raadhuis te Oud-Vossemeer.

en speurt verder naar de geschiedenis van een grooten naam. En Roosevelt zelf?

— Ach, neen, klaagde een bewoner, — die trekt er zich niets van aan. Toen de kerk, waarin „zijn” kroonlamp hangt, hersteld moest worden, heeft men hem om een bijdrage verzocht! Maar er is niets gekomen.....

heer Van Deventer.

— De doopboeken, waaruit het absolute bewijs van de afstamming der Roosevelts te dis-

Want ook Vossemeer heeft zijn moderne zorgen, al lijkt het of de tijden hier geen invloed hebben. Bij ons bezoek aan het stadhuis von-



Dit huis is eigendom geweest van een der leden van het Vossemeersche geslacht der Van Roosevelt.

LONDON DAY BY DAY

arrived early—and thought nothing of keeping them till 10 or 11 at night.

Of recent Foreign Secretaries, Sir John Simon was always very energetic, and Sir Samuel Hoare always very courteous—achieving an almost Balfourian standard of consideration.

Roosevelt Legend

FROM the recent inquiries into the Dutch ancestry of the Roosevelts it looks as if one picturesque story of the family must be classed as legend.

This is that there were Roosevelts in New York when the city was still New—or rather Nieuw—Amsterdam.

Records, however, in Old Vossemeer, their native place in Zealand, show that Klaes Roosevelt and his wife sailed for America about 1700. New York received its present name in 1664.

In Vossemeer the Roosevelt family—as they spelt their name—were people of substance.

Over the mantelpiece in the Town Hall the arms of Jan Roosevelt appear with others of the local worthies.

Klaes and his wife, Jannetje, prospered moderately in the New World. Their great-grandson bought the estate at Hyde Park which now belongs to Franklin Roosevelt. It has been in the family since the days when George III. was still their liege lord.

Lord Lytton's Best Seller

ORIGINALLY, I believe, the life of the late Lord Knebworth by his father, the Earl of Lytton, was intended to be a limited edition for private circulation among personal friends.

Later Lord Lytton decided to have it published for general circulation.

It appeared just over a month ago, on Dec. 5, and had an immediate success. It has already, I believe, gone through four editions. An American edition is also shortly to appear.

It is rare nowadays for an author to write a best-seller with as little premeditation as Lord Lytton has done.

Dressy Secret Police

I HEAR from Moscow that the new "squashed raspberry" uniform now issued to Narkomvnudel—the former

Ogpu—makes quite minor chiefs of that once unobtrusive department as resplendent as Italian generals.

Much piping, braid and stars—gold or silver according to rank—will add to their decorativeness.

Narkomvnudel's chief, Yagoda, whose title is Commissar-general of State Security, will now be well able to hold his own with the heads of the military forces.

Yagoda, who won his spurs liquidating



"Roosevelt" Arms in the Town Hall at Old Vossemeer.

the Trotzkiists and then the so-called "Wreckers," will carry a large size gold star on both sleeves.

The hammer and sickle in the centre is suitably trimmed with red, blue, green and madder brown braid. Gold braid adorns the cuffs.

His chief political assistants and the generals commanding his political troops will also be conspicuous examples of the snarther tailoring which is now the vogue in Soviet official circles.

Piebald National Winner

I HOPE that the Paramount authorities, who are making a film of the Grand National out of Miss Enid Bagnold's book "National Velvet," will not take the horse-hero's name too literally.

This was Piebald. To the best of my knowledge, no piebald horse has ever won a race of any importance. The Tetrach, one of the greatest sprinters ever foaled, looked like a rocking-horse, but was, in fact, two shades of grey.

I also hope that the producers will not

- A. Coats of arms over the mantel piece in the Town Hall at Vossemeer.

- B. The ornament on top of the escutcheon is only an embellishment. The actual family blazon consists of the chevron with the three roses, a so-called canting arms.

- C. This house once was the property of one of the Vossemeer branches of the family of the Van Rosevelts.

- D. The chandelier in the Dutch Reformed Church at Oud-Vossemeer, which was presented by a Van Rosevelt.

- E. The Town Hall at Oud Vossemeer.

*File
Personal**(2)*

The Hague, Netherlands,
June 30, 1936.

Dear Mr. President:

I merely wish to send you my heartiest congratulations on the splendid speech accepting your renomination as President which you delivered last night in Philadelphia. It seemed to me to hit just the right note and to arouse the energy and enthusiasm of your supporters to a point where they will repeat their performance of 1932 and reflect you comfortably.

I am looking forward to sailing from here the middle of August, arriving in New York about August 20th and spending four weeks there at National Headquarters doing what I can to help the campaign. If there is any work you wish me to do, any people that I can see, any help or assistance I can give, please command me.

Everything is going well here. You may be interested to hear that the other day, when I saw Dr. Colijn, he expressed himself very vehemently in favor of the policy of your Administration towards negotiating foreign trade agreements with other countries. He said it had done more than anything since the war to free the foreign trade of the nations of the world from the artificial shackles and restrictions that had been placed upon it and were stifling it. He condemned the plank in the Republican Platform which blamed your Administration for negotiating these trade treaties and promised a change in policy in that respect.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Pauline sends her love to Eleanor
and we both join in wishing you complete and en-
tire success in the coming campaign.

Looking forward to seeing you in
August, believe me to be,

As ever,

Faithfully yours,

Lucille J. Sumner

Ps F Netherlands

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Hague, Netherlands,
August 11, 1936.

Dear Mr. President:

I beg to enclose you herewith translations of a letter which I have received from Professor Dr. van Poelje, Secretary General of the Department of Education, Arts and Sciences, a translation of a letter from the State Archivist, Bijlsma, and a translation of a report from the State Archivist, Bijlsma, all related to the research which has been made for the father and place of origin of Claes Maertensz Roosevelt, the head of your family in America who emigrated to New Amsterdam.

After receiving your letter last March, I had several conferences with Prof. van Poelje, who was much interested in the subject and who at my request caused a search and thorough investigation to be made by the State Archivist, and the enclosed are the results which, although...

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

although inconclusive, nevertheless show most careful and thorough research work. I am afraid they explode the idea that he came from Vossemeer. There is still a possibility that Dr. Callenbach's statement as to the Delft origin of the Roosevelt family, mentioned in the Archivist's report, may be substantiated by finding a notarial deed of the year 1651 and if any information from that direction is forthcoming, I will of course let you know of it at once.

I also have still to hear from an American archivist who has been working in Holland and who at my request has been looking into the origin of the family, but it may be some time before I get a report from him, as he has gone back to America. Also it is still possible that through the kindness of Mr. Snouck Hurgronje, the Secretary General of the Foreign Office, I may get some further information, but I fear that nothing will be turned up that has not already been found by the State Archivist, so that I do not want to lead you to hope too optimistically that I am going to be able to give you more satisfactory results.

I have the originals (in Dutch) of the enclosed papers...

papers, which I have filed here in the Legation. If you wish them, of course they are available at any time. As I expect to go to America next week, arriving in New York August 27th, I hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing you soon and perhaps I can talk over with you then the enclosures of this letter.

I am anxious to get home to get into the struggle as soon as possible and am looking forward to doing anything there is for me to do to help along your election. There has been a decided change here during the last month in the feeling about your political strength, but you will be interested to hear that de Graeff, the Foreign Minister, told me the other day that van Haersma de With, the Dutch Minister to Washington, had reported to him that there is no doubt but that you will be reelected fairly easily. From what I hear the fight is going to be a bitter one and I want to do my utmost in the campaign.

When I get to New York I will report at Democratic National Headquarters and I hope to be able to get up to Hyde Park or to Washington and see you as soon afterwards as you can see me. I hope you are standing the racket and the wear and tear of the campaign well

and...

- 4 -

and are not worried about the result. Your friends who stood behind you in 1932 will do as good a job this year.

Pauline sends her love to you and Eleanor, and looking forward to seeing you soon, believe me to be,

As ever,

Faithfully yours,

Genevieve F. Denny

INVESTIGATION RE CLAES MAERTENSZ ROOSEVELT

Contents:

Translation of letter dated July 29, 1936,
from Prof. Dr. van Poelje, Director General
of Ministry of Education, Arts &
Sciences, to Grenville T. Emmet, American
Minister, transmitting a copy of a letter
and report from the State Archivist,
Bijlsma.

Translation of letter dated April 20, 1936,
from State Archivist Bijlsma to the Director
General of Education, Arts & Sciences,
Prof. Dr. van Poelje.

Translation of report, dated July 13, 1936,
from State Archivist Bijlsma to Prof. Dr.
van Poelje, Director General of Education,
Arts & Sciences.

Translation

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE HAGUE,
July 29, 1936.

Further inquiries.
Excellency: as I remain.

I am sending herewith to Your Excellency copy of a report of the State Archivist regarding the investigation as to the forefathers of President Roosevelt.

I also attach copy of a previous letter which is referred to in the beginning of the report.

I am sorry that the research did not lead to any positive result.

There is still a small possibility that Dr. Callenbach's statement as to the Delft origin of the Roosevelt family, mentioned in the State Archivist's report, has been derived from a notarial deed of the year 1651. This will have to be ascertained in the municipal archives of Rotterdam. I will endeavor to cause this research to be made, although it will probably require a great deal of time. Should it produce any result, I will inform Your Excellency concerning it.

Should President Roosevelt be in possession of further data about his forefathers which is unknown to us, the possession of such data might perhaps facilitate further...

- 2 -

further inquiries.

Meanwhile I remain,

Yours respectfully,

(signed) van Poelje

Secretary-General of the Department
of Education, Arts & Sciences

To His Excellency
Grenville T. Emmet,
Envoy Extraordinary and
Minister Plenipotentiary
of the United States of
America,
The Hague.

Translation

STATE ARCHIVES

THE HAGUE,
April 20, 1936.

No. 234 B

Reply to Letter
dated March 27, 1936.

No. 1902 K.W.

Re: Promotion of Tourist Traffic

In compliance with above-mentioned letter, which is being returned herewith, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the research for the origin of the ancestor of the Roosevelt generation, which is established in North America, has been made in four archives and that the research in two of them must be considered as having been terminated. Up till now these investigations did not reveal any indication regarding the origin of Claes Martensz Roosevelt.

THE STATE ARCHIVIST

(signed) Bijlsma

To His Excellency

The Minister of Education,
Arts & Sciences.

A true copy of the original.

The Secretary-General of Edu-
cation Arts & Sciences:

(signed) van Poelje

Translation

STATE ARCHIVES

No. 431 B

Reply to Letter dated:
December 28, 1935 & April 27, 1936
No. 6722 & No. 2447 K.W.

THE HAGUE,

Re: Promotion of Tourist Traffic July 13, 1936.

Further to my letter of April 20, 1936, I have the honor to submit to Your Excellency an exposé of the research for the father and the place of origin of Claes Martensz Roosevelt, who emigrated to New Amsterdam.

In making these investigations, it appeared to be necessary to reckon with the probability that the family name Roosevelt was not assumed by Claes Martensz until during his stay in North America. We find his name Nicolaes Maertensen mentioned when he, accompanied by his wife, Jannetje Hamel, on August 16, 1655, makes a declaration before the Aldermen of New Amsterdam (an English translation of this declaration was published in The Records of New Amsterdam, 1653-1676, I 339, New York 1897).

From the extensive literature concerning the genealogies of Netherland generations, it is known how many persons in the seventeenth century proceeded to add a second name to their Christian name (first name) and patronymic (like

for...

To His Excellency
The Minister of Education,
Arts & Sciences.

for instance Michiel Adriaensz, who changed his name into de Ruyter). In selecting a family name it often happened that this was derived from the name of the house or the homestead the person owned or lived in. It also frequently happened that, when the father had no family name and the son, on the occasion of his baptism, was called after the grandfather on his mother's side who already had a family name, the son assumed, together with the Christian name, also the family name. The Rotterdam family van Hogendorp, for instance, descends from Lenaert Lenaertz, who married Maritge Cornelisdr. van Hogendorp; the son of this couple, Cornelis, called himself Cornelis van Hogendorp. For this reason also it is not advisable to maintain the supposition that Maertin Roosevelt is the progenitor in patriarchal line of the American Roosevelt generation.

The research therefore must aim to find a Maerten, of whom it can be shown that he is the father of Claes Maertensz who crossed the ocean to America. It is natural that the research for this Maerten should be initiated by looking in the first place for persons, living in the middle of the 17th century, who bore the name of
Roosevelt...

Roosevelt.

As regards persons belonging to a lineage of which members, known under the family name of Roosevelt, lived in the seventeenth century on the island of Tholen in the places Tholen and Oud-Vossemeer, extensive information was published by Mr. J. van der Minne in a periodical called "De Nederlandsche Leeuw", volumes 1901, 1902 and 1911. In the final article, data have been incorporated which had been compiled by Mr. Hollestelle in Tholen. From this publication it appears that endeavors made at the time to trace Claes Martensz Roosevelt in the documents, or find somebody who might have been his father, were unsuccessful.

A map of the island of Tholen drawn by Hattinga in 1744 (a copy of which is being kept in the State Archives) shows a razed dike situated on "Het Rosevelt"; this site was situated in the manor of Tholen which is adjacent to the polder of "Oud-Poortvliet".

In completion of the research work done by Mr. van der Minne and Mr. Hollestelle, it was considered desirable to cause a research to be made in the archival documents originating from Tholen and kept in the State Archives in Zeeland...

Zeeland, from which documents data might be derived concerning the proprietors or leaseholders of homesteads situated in the manor of Tholen, known in that district as "Het Roseveld".

As the result of a lengthy search in the State Archives of Zeeland, extensive material concerning these homesteads has been collected. This investigation - I am told by the Government Archivist in Zeeland - neither revealed a Claes Martensz nor a Maerten of whom it could be shown that he had a son by the name of Claes. Special attention was devoted to the collection of data regarding Maerten Cornelisz Geldersman, who during the period 1649-1654 owned a homestead on the Rosevelt and emigrated after having been declared bankrupt.

In order to cause another course to be followed I addressed myself to the acting State Archivist in North Holland, who in his turn called for the assistance of the municipal archivist of Amsterdam. The research concerned the Van Roosevelt family of Amsterdam and Haarlem, which in genealogical literature was known from the marriage contracted in 1668 between Engeltje Fabricius (the daughter of a Haarlem City Father) and Theodoor van Roosevelt...
velt...

Roosevelt. In the deed of betrothal Dirck van Roosevelt, a merchant, born in Amsterdam, is mentioned as the bridegroom.

An investigation made as to the members of this Roosevelt generation, which existed about the middle of the seventeenth century, showed that in Amsterdam lived the brothers Volckert Cornelisz., pharmacist, on the Prinsegracht, and Pieter Cornelisz., carpenter's mate, on the Rosegracht. It appears that the brothers, who married - the one in 1632 and the other in 1642 - both assumed the family name Van Roosevelt. Volckert appears for the first time under this name in a deed of 1640.

The investigation into other members of this family, about whom the municipal archivist of Amsterdam supplied exact information, neither revealed a Claes Maertensz nor a Maerten who might be considered as the father of the Claes Maertensz who emigrated to America.

A third investigation was made of the archives covering former jurisprudence of the barony of Wassenaar and Zuydwijck, kept in the State Archives. It was known to me that north of the village of Wassenaar, on the Oostdorperweg (S.E. side) there was a homestead which in the beginning of eighteenth century was known by the name of Rooseveltdt. It

was...

was quite possible that the name dated back from a former period and that a proprietor or leaseholder derived his family name from the homestead.

The history of this homestead could be followed, from the deeds of conveyance executed before the Aldermen of Wassenaar and Zuydwijck, as far as the beginning of the seventeenth century. In the documents no name has been found, however, that might indicate any relation to Claes Maertensz.

Inquiries made at the municipal archives in Rotterdam and Delft were also without result.

In Dr. Callenbach's publication called "Rotterdam Cathedral" is stated on page 31 that the ex-President of the United States of North America descended "from Claes Maartensz Rosevelt, who left Delft and went to America in 1651" (this statement does not appear in the edition containing the Netherland version). Dr. Callenbach, on being questioned thereon, stated that he thought he remembered that when he wrote his booklet he received this information from the then municipal archivist of Rotterdam. The present functionary in Rotterdam reported that he consulted the correspondence of his predecessor of the period during which....

which Dr. Callenbach wrote his booklet, but that he did not find any indication on the subject.

In reply to my inquiry at the municipal archives in Delft, the assistant of this institution informed me that in the correspondence of the municipal archivist of the year 1910 a letter to Rotterdam was found, stating that an investigation of the archival documents of Delft did not produce anything regarding Claes Maertensz Roosevelt. The assistant aforementioned added that a renewed investigation made by her into the presence in Delft of a Claes Maertensz produced no results.

In my opinion there were no sufficient indications to justify enquiries to be made in other directions. In connection with Dr. Callenbach's statement, we must reckon with the possibility that his allegation as to the Delft origin of the Roosevelt family was derived from some document in the Rotterdam municipal archives. In this connection we must devote attention in the first place to some notarial deed of the year 1651. I did not take the liberty, however, of extending the investigation into this direction because I did not consider it justifiable to cause official time to be spent in lengthy investigations to be made on such...

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such vague information as the Rotterdam clue regarding
Claes Maertensz Roosevelt's origin from Delft proved to
be.

The enclosures attached to the letter of Your Excel-
lency are returned herewith.

THE STATE ARCHIVIST

(signed) Bijlsma

A true copy of the original.

The Secretary General of Education,
Arts & Sciences:

(signed) van Poelje



Netherlands
P.F.

564 PARK AVENUE

Dear Mr President
 I cannot get sail with
 telling you how much
 I regret having given
 been to an important
 leaving you a fare well
 note with a regret-
 I hope you will for-
 get it - I must leave
 am very happy to provide
 by my life that I should
 like to forget! I
 will do over interest
 to make Budapest a
 great success - I
 know you will
 find it a most interest-
 ing port! Indeed

all parts are in-
teresting! —
Thank you for your
consideration and
I am as
Always devotedly
Franklin

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file
personal

Dear Mr President—

If you do make
a change in Vienna
will you let Gamville
have it? — In any
case you know we
will acquiesce in
your decision.

Affectionately

Pauline

COPY

PSF Netherlands

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dec. 23rd, 1936.

My dear Princess Juliana:-

At this time of your approaching marriage, it affords Mrs. Roosevelt and me particular pleasure to extend to you and the Prince Consort our very sincere felicitations. Because of our ancestral ties with The Netherlands, we have always taken a special interest in the well-being of your family and your nation. We wish for you both all happiness and prosperity, and send to you our most cordial greetings.

Faithfully yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Her Royal Highness
The Princess Juliana
The Hague

Kayusa - Ladóji.

January 25th 1937

Dear Mr. President.

I have been greatly touched by your kindness in conveying your own and Mrs. Roosevelt's congratulations on the occasion of my marriage in a personal letter. Be assured, that your congratulations are highly valued by us both, coming as they do from the President of the great Republic to which my country is bound with so many ties that their relationship far exceeds, in cordiality and friendship, mere formal international amity. Need I add, that we are happy to

think, that the ancestors of the
present Presidents of the United
States came from my country?

Thanking you for your kind
thoughts, and asking you to be so
good as to present to Mrs.

Doorend's the expression of our
gratitude, I have the honour to
remain

your good friend

Juliana of the Netherlands

The Presidents of the
United States of America

PS F Netherlands



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
PC 856.0011/39

March 3, 1937

My dear Miss LeHand:

With reference to your memorandum of December 23, 1936, I am sending you herewith an autograph letter from Her Royal Highness Princess Juliana to the President in reply to his personal congratulations on the occasion of her marriage. This letter was recently transmitted to the Department by the Minister of the Netherlands in Washington. The Minister is being advised that the letter has been properly delivered.

Sincerely yours,

Chief of Protocol.

Enclosure:
Autograph letter.

Miss Marguerite A. LeHand,
Private Secretary to the President,
The White House.



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Hague, Netherlands,
January 16, 1937.

PSF Netherlands

P.F.

My dear Mr. President:

In conformity with the usual custom, and as you are about to finish your first term as President, I beg to place at your disposal my resignation, to be accepted at your pleasure, as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to this post.

It has been a great pleasure and a great honor to hold this position under appointment from you and to be a part of your Administration. I am deeply sensible of the confidence you have reposed in me.

With the greatest respect, believe me to be,

Faithfully yours,

Frederic S. Emmons

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President -
This refers to (1) your
Beekman ancestors (2)
to Sumatra which I should
visit the Dutch East Indies.
It need not be returned to me,
I am R. Walton Moore

PSF
Netherlands
DEPARTMENT OF THE
STATE OF AMERICA

The Hague, Netherlands,
February 6, 1937.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

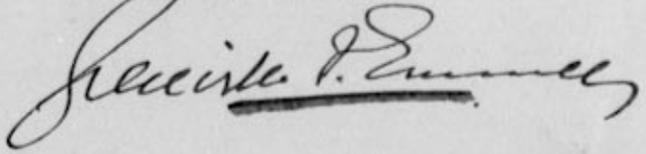
Thank you more than I can say for your letter of January 21st about my broadcast speech on the President's ancestors. I did appreciate hearing from you and am especially glad that someone like yourself in the Department heard my remarks and that they came over the air distinctly.

I am interested in what you said about William Beekman, the son of Hendrix Beekman who married a Vandertrend and lived and died at Zutphen, which is in the eastern part of Holland. I have frequently passed through it by automobile. If I turn up anything of interest with reference to the Beekman family by way of Zutphen, I will certainly let you know.

Thank you again very much for your letter. I appreciate what you say about the Dutch East Indies. If I am retained in this post, I think I ought to go out there.

With best wishes for yourself, believe me to be,

Faithfully yours,



The Honorable
R. Walton Moore,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

day when the Princess Juliana of Holland married the German Prince Bernhard of Lippe-Biesterfeld. Just before the wedding Germany claimed to have been insulted by the Dutch because sufficient honor had not been paid the Nazi flag on the occasion of a recent football game, and a tense situation rapidly developed, - so tense and so rapid that it almost interfered with the wedding. As a result, I am told that not a line appeared in any German newspaper about the wedding; at least, that is the information Dr. Colijn gave me yesterday. As another illustration of how determined they are not to publish anything which creates doubts in the mind of the German people as to the present and future, is the recent censorship placed on all news concerning Sir Henry Deterding's plan which was to finance deliveries of Dutch agricultural products to Germany which, although greatly in need of them, could not manage their purchase through lack of exchange - not a word appeared in any German paper concerning this generous action on the part of a neighboring country. The Minister of Propaganda was afraid it would frighten them in regard to the present economic condition of the nation, to say nothing of the future.

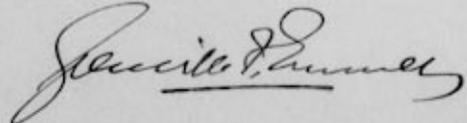
It is hard to understand a situation like this in America, where the press is so free and unrepressed, or even in a country like Holland, where the press is independent and fearless and prints what it wants. But the fact remains that it exists in Germany and the grip of the Government is so firm and so relentless that nothing appears except what the Government wants to have given publicity. The Ministry of Propaganda tells the newspapers and the press associations what they can publish and not a word more gets into print. Every German newspaper is like the next one. There is no choice between them as to news. None has more than another. How you can ventilate and open up a situation like this I do not know, except by the infiltration of intelligence and truthful news through fearless and disinterested individuals who are not afraid to spread the truth, and I suppose really that is the way it will be finally overcome.

Dr. Colijn was most interesting, as usual, in his talk with me yesterday. He thinks that Italy is in a far better condition mentally, morally and financially than Germany, that Mussolini is showing some signs of recognizing the shortcomings and fallacies of dictatorships

and is beginning to see the light of dawning democratic consciousness, that he is of far bigger stature as a statesman than Hitler and that it will be Mussolini and not Hitler who will decide to keep Europe at peace, or turn it to war. He felt that France was in poor condition financially and currency-wise and that further devaluation of the French currency would be necessary in the not distant future. When I told him that the recent advices I had had from France and the recent conversations I had had with French bankers and businessmen indicated a different point of view on their part, he simply shrugged his shoulders and said he did not care what they said, that he, Dr. Colijn, felt confident the French would not get through without further devaluation, i.e., devaluation below the limit fixed last September when the first devaluation occurred.

With best wishes and hoping that everything is going well with you, believe me to be,

Faithfully yours,

The signature is written in a cursive, handwritten style. It appears to read "Jacques L. Dumesnil". The name "Dumesnil" is underlined with a single horizontal line.

TELEGRAM

5WUC 11

The White House
Washington

PSF

*J
Netherlands*

New York, N.Y., Sept. 26, 1937.

The President.

My father died this evening in Vienna after a brief
illness.

Grenville Emmet, Jr.

9F52pm

*file
personal*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*PSF
Netherlands
1*

10/26 [37]

Mr. Summerlin said:

"We have received this message
from Dr. Loudon:

"The Netherlands Govt has
instructed Dr. Loudon, its
Minister here, to express to
the President its gratitude."

For the original carbon of this memorandum--See: Hull folder-Drawer 4-1939. The letters to Leopold and Wilhelmina were sent through State Dept.

COPY

November 11, 1939.

Netherlands

VERY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

What would you think of my sending something like the following as personal and unofficial messages to King Leopold and Queen Wilhelmina? In view of the fact that Leopold is an old friend of mine and that I have ancestral Dutch connections it would be a decent thing to do and, in addition, whether they accepted or declined, if war comes to them it might be a helpful political gesture for the future.

"To King Leopold:

In the event of a new invasion of Belgium, and because of our long-time friendship, I hope you will feel free to send your children and any other members of the family to the United States during the danger period. You can rest assured that Mrs. Roosevelt and I would gladly look after their safety and well-being and that we would regard them as members of our own family. As a matter of precaution it would probably be best for them to go by train and motor to Bilbao or Lisbon and I would gladly send a cruiser there to bring them to Washington or to our country place at Hyde Park.

I am thinking much of you in these grave hours.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

"To Queen Wilhelmina:

I am thinking much of you and the House of Orange in these critical days, and it occurs to me that in the event of the invasion of Holland you may care to have the Crown Princess and the children come to the United States temporarily to be completely safe against airplane raids. It would give Mrs. Roosevelt and me very great happiness to care for them over here as if they were members of our own family and they could come to us either in

Washington or at our country place at Hyde Park.

I am telegraphing my old friend Leopold in regard to his own children, and I want you to know that I want to help in any personal way which lies in my power.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

F. D. R.

*file
personal.*

The Hague, Netherlands,
November 14, 1939.

Dear Mr. President:

It occurs to me that a line may not be amiss to tell you that brief as was Queen Wilhelmina's reply to your and Mrs. Roosevelt's offer to care for the Crown Princess and her children, there is no doubt that it was deeply appreciated. In the interview which I had with Her Majesty night before last, she expressed herself more freely than is her wont, and referred most appreciatively to what she qualified as the spontaneity and kindness of your offer. In fact, at one point she said "I really cannot find words to express myself" - which, coming from Queen Wilhelmina, I think may be taken as an unmistakable indication of her very genuine appreciation of your message.

Needless to say, the Foreign Minister, through whom I had to make the appointment with the Queen and

The President,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Department of State

BUREAU
DIVISION

PR

ENCLOSURE

TO

Letter drafted

ADDRESSED TO

General Watson

- 2 -

who was the only other person with whom I spoke concerning the contents of your message, was thoroughly delighted therewith.

With my highest regard, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

George A. Gordon.