

## **FOREWORD**

The story of the Dutch American entrepreneurs described herein is essentially a compilation of material gathered by the author from a variety of sources. Not much is written about the individuals covered in this book in previous book publications with a few exceptions. There is, however, a fair amount of coverage of the individuals, who make up this story, on the “world wide web”. And it is safe to say that without the web based information it would have been difficult to compile the material and to write this book.

One of the problems with web based material is the degree of authenticity of each source. Some of the material originates directly from the individual or from organizations with whom the individual is involved. In other words there is bound to be some bias in some of the sources. But this book is not intended to be an exact historic representation of the individuals and their accomplishments, but rather the story of what they achieved. This does not imply that I have not been careful to ensure the validity and accuracy of what is described in the book.

The book is intended to look at the positive aspects of the individuals, and their respective accomplishments. Some of the criticisms that one can dig up on nearly any historic figure is omitted or only mentioned in a cursory form.

Each chapter covers a specific group of commercial activities or related firms. At the end of each chapter is a reference to brief biographical profiles of the individuals who appeared in the descriptions of their respective activities. In some of the cases there will be some overlap of the material covered in the chapter and in the biographical profiles. Duplication is difficult to avoid, because shortening a biographical profile too much takes away from the message about the individual.

The 50+ individuals covered in the book and their life stories cover a period of about 400 years. The first individual covered is the captain of the ship that arrived with the first settlers for New Amsterdam in 1624. His name was Cornelis Jacobszoon Mey, still remembered until today by New Jersey’s Cape May, named after him. More recent members are the two musical rock stars, Eddie Van Halen and Bruce Springsteen, who were still actively touring the country with their respective rock bands in early 2008. So nearly a 400 year period is covered in the book.

Although the time span of the book covers 400 years, most of the individual entrepreneurs became successful and lived during the twentieth century, with a sprinkling living during the nineteenth century. But then one could argue that the real opportunities for becoming a successful entrepreneur did not really arrive until the nineteenth century. In conclusion the book should be considered a chronicle of the accomplishments of the entrepreneurs covered in the book. The material is not based on primary sources, unless one considers some of the web based material a primary source, which it seldom is. The book is about the admirable accomplishments of what members of a group of ambitious Dutch Americans were able to accomplish in the land of opportunity, the United States of America.