

Early Settlement in North America: The First New Yorkers

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Although the stamps seen here have a rather complex and complicated explanation as to their purpose (See MP Vol. 79, No. 3, September 2014, page 15), the fact is a sailing ship did arrive in North America in 1624 and a group of people did disembark and start a little colony.

The first stamp shows what is said to be their ship, *Nieu Nederland*. From what I can gather, the Dutch ships of that era used to cross the Atlantic Ocean were much more robust—they had to be to weather storms. Many were lost at sea, and in those days the only way someone ashore became aware of this was when the ship did not arrive. One had to assume the ship was lost, with a vain hope that perhaps pirates had taken it. The drawing of the *Nieu Nederland* shown on the right is said to depict this ship.

The second stamp shows a group of people on shore (Albany, New York). Although an artistic rendering, some of the real people aboard that ship were Philippe du Trieux, a Walloon, probably accompanied by his second wife Susanne du Chesne, and his children Philippe and Marie. Furthermore, Ghislain and Adrienne (Cuvelier) Vigne and their children Marie, Christine, and Rachel were on either *Nieu Nederland* or *De Eendracht*, as their son Jan would be the first male child born in the new colony.

Religious persecution was the reason these hardy souls chanced a very perilous journey and a highly uncertain future in a massive and totally “untamed” land.

About 38 years or so earlier, the first colonization attempt on Roanoke Island (North Carolina) ended in apparent disaster (everybody disappeared), so colonization did not come highly recommended. Nevertheless, these colonists persevered and might be considered the first New Yorkers. (USA, Issued 1924)

