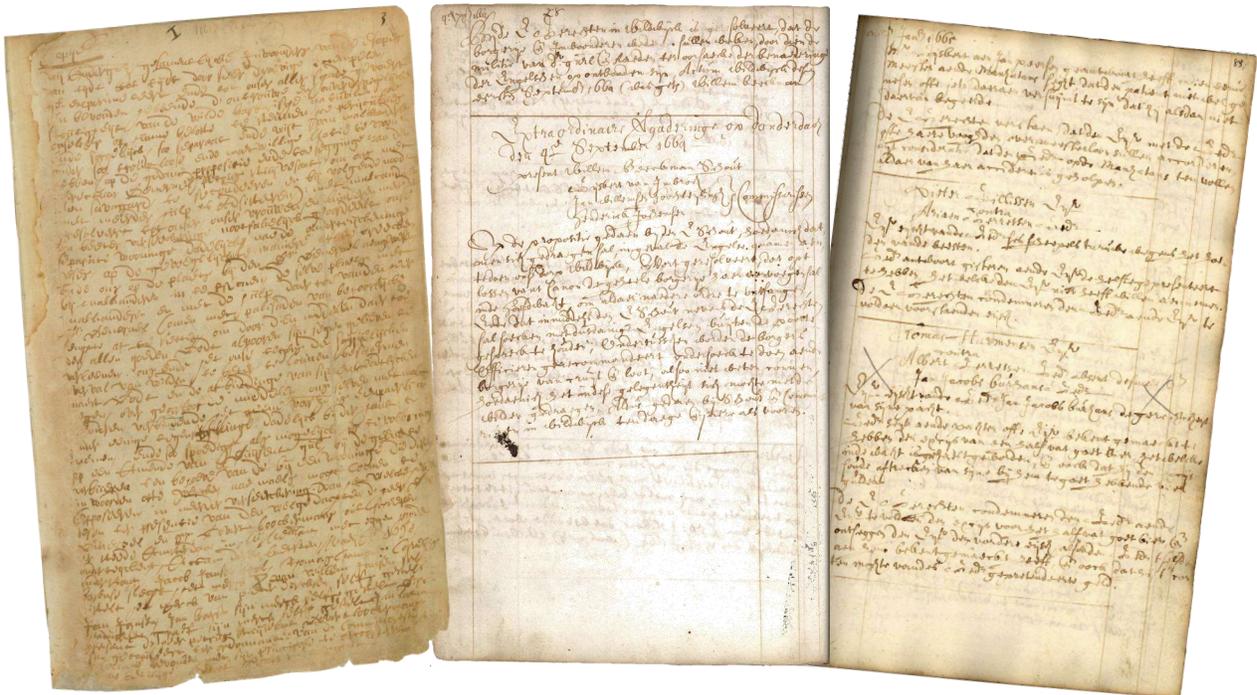




# Dutch Dilemmas



Learn about Ulster County's earliest records in this document-based activity booklet that is fun for kids of all ages. Presented by the Ulster County Clerk's Records Management Program.



**T**he Ulster County Clerk's Archives contains a treasure trove of records which serve to document our rich, local history. The oldest records collection in the Archives is titled, "The Dutch Record Collection" and dates from May 31, 1658 through 1712 and remains one of the most significant record series in the Archives and has national historical significance as well.

This collection is entirely written in the "old" Dutch language and serves to document the early European Dutch settlement of the area. These records consist mostly of the original minutes of the proceeding of the Court of Wiltwyck at Kingston, Hurley and Marbletown showing the date of the court session, presiding schout and schepens (officers of the court), plaintiff and defendant, charge in indictment, testimony, sentence of court and disposition of the case. They tell the stories of the settlers lives, their occupations, the structure of money, their defense, their struggles and serve as a lens into life in Wiltwyck. Kingston was called Wiltwyck by the Dutch, which means "wild place" until the English changed the name to "Kingston" in 1664.

In 1895, the Ulster County Board of Supervisors authorized that these "ancient records" be translated into English by a "competent translator" for a sum not to exceed five hundred dollars. In 1896, Dutch Scholar Dingman Versteeg was hired by the County to translate the Old Dutch Records to English. In 1899, Dingman completed this work which yielded three bound volumes of English Translations and for the first time the County knew what the records said and our history was revealed! This was an incredibly important turning point in Ulster County's history and the provenance of the Dutch Records Collection.

*Dutch Dilemmas* features several activities related to The Dutch Records Collection. In this activity booklet, there is a *Scavenger Hunt* where the answers to the questions are found within the records. The record panels that pertain to the Scavenger Hunt have the icon of the "Archives Detective" on them so those panels reveal the answers! The records show the original Dutch record in the background and the English translation laid over top. Once you find your answers to the Scavenger Hunt you will have all the "clues" you need to solve the "Final Mystery!"

There is a *Palisades Puzzle*, a *Kermis Maze* and a *Dutch Court Word Search* to solve as well. They are fun activities to help you learn about the life of our early settler's.

It is my hope that these activities provide a fun and interesting way to learn, interpret and understand some of our most treasured records, The Dutch Record Collection, and bring our rich local history alive for you.

Good luck!

# Dutch Dilemmas Scavenger Hunt

(Hint: To help solve the mysteries, look for the Archives Detective. He has put his mark on several documents to help you in your search!)



1. Dutch Immigrants to the New Netherland Colony (in what later became New York) brought with them their favorite recipes and food in order to make the New World feel more like home.

**Mystery to Solve:** What food did the Sergeant say went well with turnips?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Wiltwyck was burned in 1663 during the Second Esopus War. The **Conflagration**, which means a large fire, destroyed much of the city.

**Mystery to Solve:** In 1664, Governor Richard Nicholls forbade residents from leaving trash in the street in order to prevent fires. What was the fine for someone who didn't clean the front of their home?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Defending their settlement against Native Americans and later the British was extremely important to the Dutch Settlers, who built a **Stockade** around Wiltwyck. A stockade is a wall made from logs which have a pointed end on top.

**Mystery to Solve:** In the Resolution and Order of September 4, 1664, what group of people were the Dutch defending themselves against?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Long before there were dollar bills and coins bearing the face of George Washington and other presidents, people in America needed currency. When Europeans began trading with Native Americans, they turned the beads Native People made for wampum belts into currency and used it for trade. The Dutch called it **zeewant**.

**Mystery to Solve:** In a court case in 1661, Harmen Jansen is forced to pay someone "24 guilders in zeewant" for passage from "the Manhatans" to where?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. In colonial times, medical knowledge was far less advanced than today. Doctors were often trained simply by apprenticing with another doctor (without necessarily going to a medical school to study). Many colonists outside of cities relied on family members, herbalists, apothecaries and midwives (women who delivered babies at home), to help them through illnesses and life threatening events.

**Mystery to Solve:** Poulus Polussen hired someone to give him medical treatment, and perform what other service?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Colonial people made much of their own food, rather than buying it at a store. Butter was one foodstuff commonly made at home. A tool for making butter is called a **churn**.

**Mystery to Solve:** How much did the widow of Cornelius Wynkoop plan to charge when selling her churn? (*Hint: refer to question two for spelling*)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. The Senate House began as a one-room home for Wessel Ten Broeck and his family in 1676 (later, others who lived in the home added rooms to it). Wessel and his wife Maria Ten Eyck wrote a will describing what possessions and property they owned would go to each child.

**Mystery to Solve:** According to condition number 6 in their will, what must happen before Wessel and Maria's children may inherit their parents' house?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Final Mystery!** Take the letters from the red underlines in the questions above and put them in order in the red lines below. Then do the same for the green and blue underlines to reveal the secret message.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ !

\_\_\_\_\_

The town barber providing medical treatment was a common occurrence in the village of Wiltwyck. The first barber-surgeon in Wiltwyck was a man named Gysbert Van Imbroch who was the original owner of the Matthewis Persen House. The Matthewis Persen House now functions as a Museum and Cultural Heritage Center owned and operated by the County of Ulster. Tours are available from Memorial Day through November or by appointment.



87

**A**

**All residents are ordered to clear the streets inside of 4 days of any rubbish, that on account of the blowing of a pipe of tobacco there may not occur a conflagration, as God forbid has happened to those of Amersfort on the long island.**

**Every body shall be obliged to attend to cleaning and cleansing of the streets from the front of his lot every week, under penalty of ten guilders fine.**

**Governor Richard Nicolls  
Read in Extraordinary Session  
Friday, November 14, 1664**



100  
W

Widow of Cornelis

Wynkoop intends to sell to the highest bidder. Payment will take place on January 8th next in merchantable wheat or peas. Stiver money to be paid by the purchaser.

one frying pan 4 gldrs,  
one smoothing iron 11 gldrs,  
one scale and a pot 6 gldrs 5 st,  
an iron pot 48 gldrs,  
a hatchel 12 gldrs,  
a pair of stockings 10 gldrs 10 st,  
a hammock-hook 7 gldrs,  
an old iron 6 gldrs 5 st,  
old iron 3 gldrs,  
old iron 7 gldrs 10 st,  
a churn 18 gldrs,  
a gun 41 gldrs 10 st,  
a child's stool 6 gldrs 5 st,  
a table 13 gldrs.

June 21, 1678



**J**

**an Broersen, Complainant**

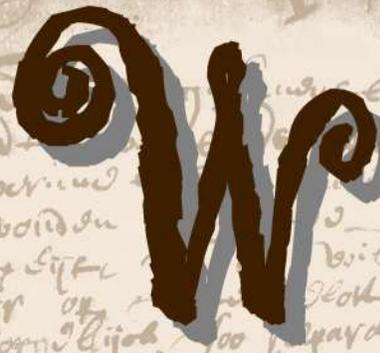
**vs.**

**Thomas Chambers, Pieter Cornelissen,  
and Elsjen Jans, Defendants**

**Jan Broersen demands a declaration of  
Thomas Chambers, Pieter Cornelissen,  
and Elsjen Jans. The sergeant has  
called him a thief. Pieter Cornelissen  
and Elsjen Jans testify and declare that  
they did not hear it. Thomas Chambers  
declares having heard that he was  
taxed with having stolen turnips, which  
complainant admits before the court.  
The sergeant added to it: "Fresh pork  
tastes well with turnips."**

**Ordinary Session  
January 23, 1663**





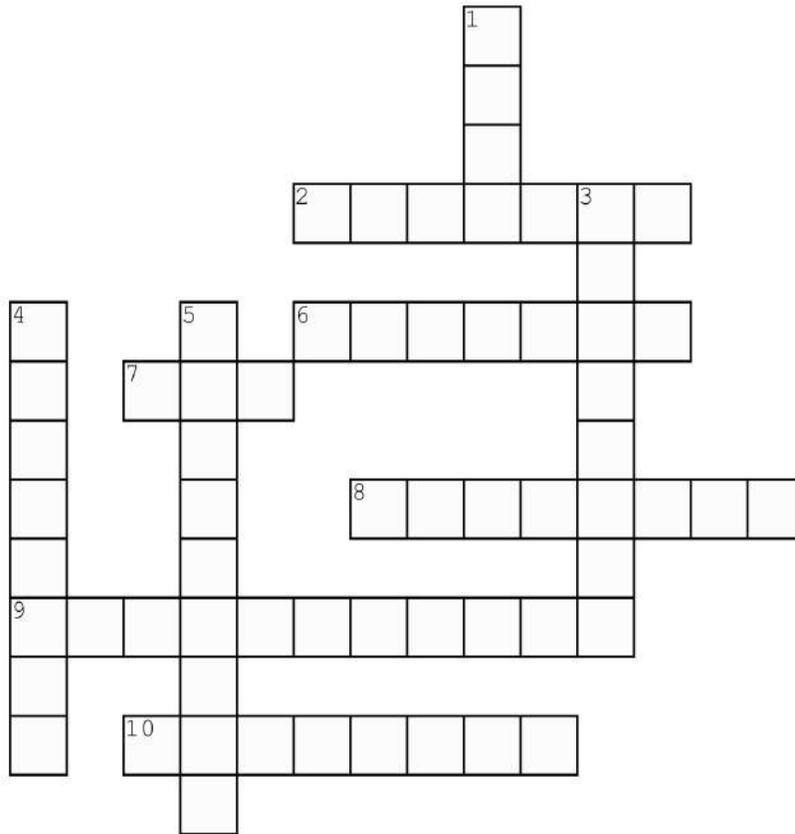
**W**e the undersigned inhabitants of the Esopus, having felt and experienced the treacherous and unbearable impudence of the savage and barbarous natives, have resolved and deemed it necessary for the greater security of our wives and children to immediately demolish our separate dwellings and to congregate on the spot designated by the Lord General, to surround the said spot with palisades of a sufficient height, in order with the blessing of the only good God, to be better able to protect ourselves and our property against the hostile assaults of the savages...

**Jacob Jansen Stol, Thomas Chambers,  
Cornelis Barense Slecht, Willem Jan-  
sen, Pieter Dercksen, Jan Jansen, Jan  
Broersen, Derck Hendricksen, Jan  
Lootman.**

**May 31, 1658**

# Palisades Puzzle

Use the document to the left (the oldest document on file with the Ulster County Clerk's Office) to fill in the blanks in the clues and solve the puzzle!



## Across

2. better able to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves
6. designated by the Lord \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ 31, 1658
8. better able to protect ourselves and our \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Esopus
10. for the greater \_\_\_\_\_ of our wives and children

## Down

1. having \_\_\_\_\_ and experienced
3. Jacob Jansen Stol, Thomas \_\_\_\_\_
4. immediately \_\_\_\_\_ our separate dwellings
5. surround the said spot with \_\_\_\_\_

---

A palisade is a tall fence, often referred to as a stockade. A replica of the Kingston Stockade was erected by the Friends of Historic Kingston and was formerly located on the corner of Frog Alley and North Front Street. The posts in the original Kingston Stockade would have had sharpened points.

The Stockade was expanded three times after the original order. The completed stockade is what we now consider the "Stockade District."



**W**

hereas Wessel Ten Broeck and Maria Ten Eyck his wife are considering the certainty of death, though not knowing the hour of its coming, therefore wishing to dispose of their temporal affairs, desire that the present shall be complied with.

1° They commend their soul to God, and bespeak for their body a decent burial.

2° The survivor shall inherit everything

3° If the survivor should remarry, then he or she shall be obliged to pay out the precise and just half of the entire estate immediately without exception.

4° The real estate such as land, houses, gardens can not be alienated excepted to the family.

5° The oldest son, Wessel Ten Broeck Junior, shall have the prior refusal of house and lot.

6° All children shall receive an equal share, the older ones as well as the younger ones, sons as well as daughters. But none of them shall receive anything from the estate until the youngest be full grown.

7° But if the estate should be rich enough and the children could be well educated, then, if anything should be left those of full age shall every year receive their share, without exception.

In testimony of the truth we have subscribed to the above, in the presence of the Justice Jan Joosten and of Tierck Claesen, Commissary, this March 7th, 1681 at Kingston.

Jan Joosten, Justice of the Peace  
Tierck Claszen DeWitt  
Wessel Ten Broeck  
Marytien Eyck.

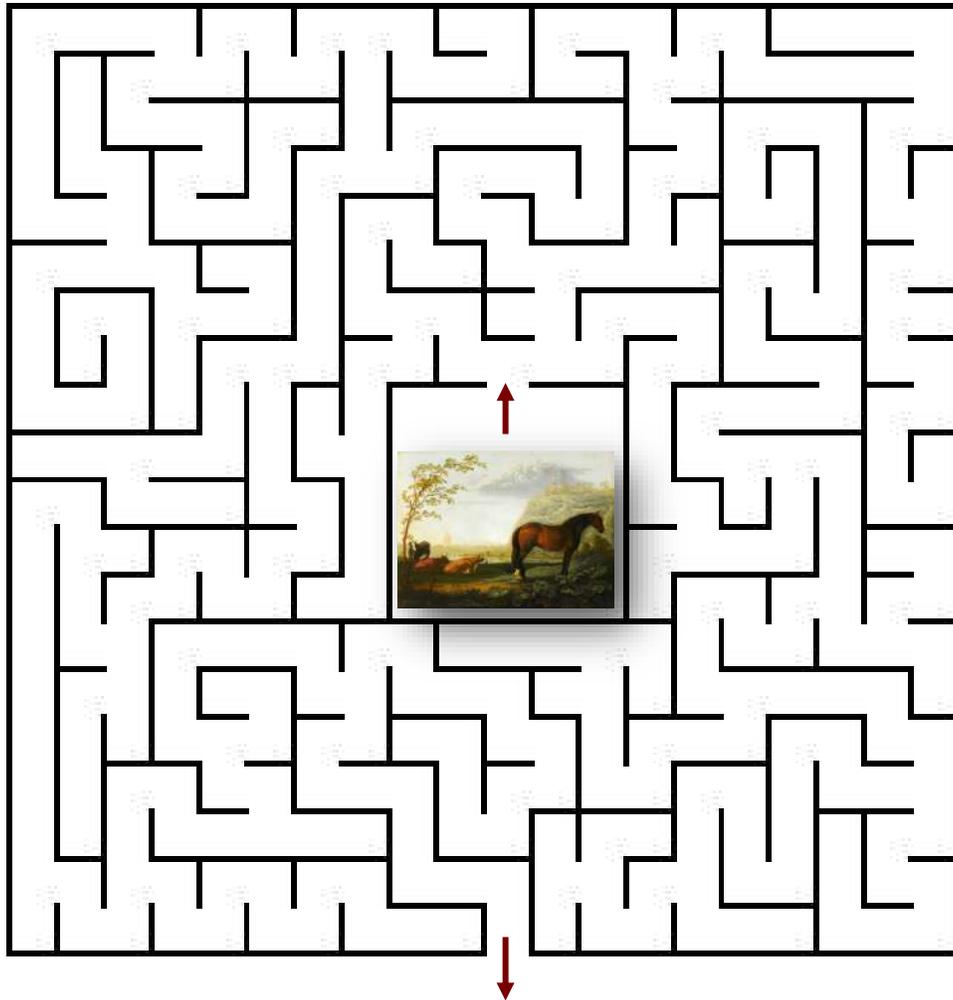




# Kermis Maze

**Help lead the “draft horses and young calves” away from the pasture.  
It’s time for the Kermis (summer fair) and you don’t want to get fined!**

**Good luck!**



Kermis is the Dutch word for fair, formed from the words Kerk, which means Church, and mis, which means mass. The date of the fair varies from town to town, as it celebrates when a parish (a local church community) was formed. The purpose of a Kermis is often fundraising for charities or other worthwhile causes. The idea of a church fair spread from the Netherlands throughout Europe, and eventually to North and South America, with the migration of Europeans to the New World.



3671  
**B**

**art Sybrantsen**

**Complainant**

**vs.**

**Harmen Jansen**

**Defendant**

**Complainant demands payment for passage of himself, wife and children from the Manhatans to the Esopus, 16 guilders in zeewant. Further 8 guilders paid to Mr. Poulus, besides half a sche-pel of peas.**

**Defendant acknowledges the debt and is sentenced to pay 24 guilders in zeewant and a half schepel of peas before his departure.**

**Ordinary Session**

**November 16, 1661**



**I**n case the English should happen to approach our village of Wildwyck, it is resolved that at the discharge of the cannon all citizens shall repair to the head watch to receive further orders, and that in the mean time the honorable court, shall try to parley with said English outside the gate. In the mean time the burgher officers are ordered to find out what powder and shot there is, because it is impossible to know how the savages will behave in this emergency.

**Thus given by Schout and  
Commissaries at Wildwyck,  
September 4, 1664**



# Dutch Court Word Search

The entry below is a translation from the original Dutch Court record entered on July 12, 1661. Using the bolded words as your guide, find the hidden words in the puzzle to the right.

Good luck!

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On July 12, 1661

**First ordinary meeting** held at Wildtwyck has resolved by the Schepens here present to hold and **convene** Court on Tuesday and see frequently every two weeks, till further **orders** of the **Director-General** and **Council** of **New Amsterdam**.

On the same date Sergeant Christiaen Nissen Romp informs us that while there is no grain to be had for the **military** Pieter Van Alin, the **shoemaker**, is exporting some **wheat**. This point is discussed and it is **resolved** that the shoemaker shall offer his remaining **grain** to the sergeant Christiaen Nissen Romp, provided the latter pays on delivery.

On the same date Schout and Schepenen **appointed** one Jacob Joosten, as well for all kinds of church services as also for the **service** of the **Court**. He is made and appointed Courtmessenger, but only provisionally, until further orders of the Director-General, and shall receive for one year two hundred **guilders** in **zeewant** [wampum].

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Zeewant was the Dutch word for 'wampum.' Throughout the records, it is spelled 'sewant,' zewant,' and 'sewan.'

Hard money (defined as either gold or silver) was scarce in New Netherlands and other alternative forms of currency were used. One of these alternatives was zeewant. It was made from various types of shells, including whelk and quahog.



Q R J A K X A J F N S Z V O T G E O A M  
 C O U N C I L P K B E K R I G N V R A Z  
 A Z A P X I H I P P U D O X V I H D W E  
 X I O S K B X L H O E T I P R T R I B E  
 W K S M D E L A C R I G A M E E M N R W  
 N J N R V F G R S U T N I E T E W A P A  
 I G E N D K S E X C O L T S H M L R O N  
 A C Y K Q A A N Z V I B M E E W E Y U T  
 R P G M O N E E Z T T A O F D R Z X X A  
 G J O Q J N F G A T W G E X E O V S I K  
 Q E U N E D J R M E X S T G H X J I F F  
 A T D V K N Y O N D E V L O S E R B C U  
 V N N R T S L T O L T X H E G Q S G D E  
 B O P R J T R C I P G S C V M Q R F Y L  
 C P U N H Y Y E H P G O G O Y Y X Q G U  
 E O N M O U D R D Q K J I O H B L Y J L  
 C P W S M P N I Z L A X D X F V E J I G  
 T S R I F V E D A C I P Y N Q M G D N X  
 Z G L I Z I Y A B G D U T X V K H Q S N  
 S H O E M A K E R R L M G R Z M Y J H U

APPOINTED  
 CONVENE  
 COUNCIL  
 COURT  
 DIRECTOR GENERAL  
 FIRST

GRAIN  
 GUILDERS  
 MEETING  
 MILITARY  
 NEW AMSTERDAM  
 ORDERS

ORDINARY  
 RESOLVED  
 SERVICE  
 SHOEMAKER  
 WHEAT  
 ZEEWANT

144  
**M**

Master Jan

**Complainant**

**vs.**

**Poulus Poulussen**

**Defendant**

**Master Jan demands from defendant**

**Poulus Poulussen payment of 2 1/2**

**schepels of wheat.**

**Defendant admits having hired Master**

**Jan for the purpose of barbering him**

**and giving him medical treatment.**

**The court sentences defendant to pay**

**the amount claimed.**

**Ordinary Session**

**November 28, 1662**



1663: 16-10-63

287

**T**

he honorable court  
 orders every farmer to properly  
 enclose his lot, and to renew the old  
 palisades enclosed from the strand gate  
 along the curtains up to Aert Pietersen  
 Tack's lot; the new palisades to have a  
 thickness of two feet in circumference,  
 at least, but the thicker the better, and  
 the length to be 13 feet, the same as the  
 location shall require, and the  
 honorable court shall deem proper.  
 This renovation shall commence on  
 Monday, October 22d. For which  
 reason every inhabitant of this place is  
 ordered to appear on said day at about  
 7 o'clock at the gate near Henderick  
 Jochemsen's house, there to be  
 mustered for the purpose of  
 commencing said work.

Thus done at Wildwyck  
 October 16, 1663



**The Mission of the Archives is to identify, store, preserve, arrange and describe the archival records of the Ulster County government and to provide access, outreach and public programs to the people of Ulster County.**



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