The Legacies of Holland, Michigan--A Study of Nine Influential People

Victoria Henry

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Lasting Legacies of Holland, Michigan—A Look at 9 Influential People in the First 50 years of the City

By: Victoria Henry
Mentored by: Dr. Marc Baer and Professor Steve VanderVeen
Hope College History Department and Center for Faithful Leadership

Modern Equivalents Say About: “What’s Unique About Holland?”

GORDON VAN WYLEN
-Contemporary of Phillip Phelps
-Past President of Hope College

THE PEOPLE
College–Community Relationship

JON BROWN
-Contemporary of Van Raalte
-Pastor of Pillar Church

THE PEOPLE
Thriving Downtown

BILL JOHNSON
-Contemporary of Arend Visscher
-Professor of Urban Design

THrivng Downtown
Community

Christina Van Raalte Gilmore (1846–1933)
-1st Dean of Women at Hope College

Henry D. Post (1824–1897)
-Involved in Community from beginning
-First Postmaster

Arend Visscher (1850—1921)
-Lawyer in Community
-Holland Improvement Company
-1883 Michigan Supreme Court Case Involvement

Henry D. Post

Isaac Cappon
(1830—1886)
-Mayor during 1871 fire
-Involved in local businesses and boards
-Cappon and Bertsch Leather Factory

Gerrit J. Diekema
(1859—1930)
-Michigan House of Representatives
-US Congressman
-Ambassador to the Netherlands

Teunis Keppel
(1823—1897)
-Involvement in early building
-Held leadership positions in Holland’s community

Edward J. Harrington
(1832—1921)
-Mayor after 1871 Holland Fire
-Involved in local businesses and boards

Phillip Phelps Jr.
(1826—1893)
-1st President of Hope College
-Turned the Hope Academy into Hope College

Albertus C. Van Raalte (1811—1876)
-Founder of Holland, Michigan
-Founder of Pillar Church
-Founder of Hope College

Henry D. Post

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