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Van Raalte Papers

7-23-1863

Dirk Van Raalte Wrote His Father, Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, About the Battle of Tebb's Bend in Which His Unit Had Fought

Dirk Van Raalte

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The original documents are held in the Albertus C. Van Raalte Collection (M300) or the Dirk B.K. Van Raalte Collection (M301) in Heritage Hall, Hekman Library, Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI. The Van Raalte material in Heritage Hall has since been reorganized.

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23 July 1863

Campbellsville, Kentucky

Dirk Van Raalte wrote his father, Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, about the battle of Tebb's Bend in which his unit had fought.

In Dutch; translator unknown.

The original may be in the Van Raalte collection, no. 300, at Heritage Hall, Calvin College. I have not seen it there. This copy of the translation was sent by Roy Olson.

Campbellsville, Kentucky
July 23, 1863

Rev. A.C. Van Raalte

Dear Father,

I could not understand why I received so few letters from you folk, but now it has corrected itself. Yesterday I received 20 letters at the same time from home. That was a fine and great feast but it took me almost the entire day to read them. There were also postage stamps in them which came at a good time.

The Stamps from De Boe I have not received and if he wants to be mean enough to keep them himself that he had better do so. He is most certainly making many excuses in the colony.

I still say that he should not drink whisky but ...

He is an unlucky rascal. I have told him that he should not drink but it does no good. But you must keep this quiet and not allow anyone to be aware of this. The last letter I received from you shows that you did not know yet that we had had a battle. By this time you will have received my letter in which all is revealed about the battle. It was very hot from the bullets.

Sometimes we and the Rebs were only six or eight feet from each other.. They tried to overwhelm us..but we shot so that they were pushed back (separated farther from us). I shall write no more about it because it is now old news from you. Our wounded are doing very well; during the week one died; a shell had taken off his arm and shattered his leg. The rest will most certainly get better. I don't know how long I shall remain in Campbellsville. The Doctor is here also. All the wounded are in Louisville except

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July 23, 1863

two who remain here and these we will remove as quickly as we can..

The weather is warm here (good growing weather). The corn is already standing very nice. Oats they cannot raise too easily or well here.. The wheat stands well. How much will the mill cost Albertus when it is finished? Does he already have a good companion? Does he still have enthusiasm for it? Tell mother that I have received her letter and will answer it speedily.

Greetings to all from me.
I consider myself your loving child..

Dirk Van Raalte

Address my letters to Louisville.

Campbellsville, Kentucky
July 23, 1863

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Dirk Van Raalte

Address my letters to Louisville.

Date: Monday, February 25, 2002 10:15 AM
From: Elton Bruins <bruins@hope.edu>
To: zrolson <zrolson@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: Dirk Van Raalte letters

Urgent New

Dear Mr. Olson: thank you very much for the copies of the two Dirk Van Raalte letters. We do not have them in our Van Raalte collection although we do have many of Ben's and Dirk's letters at the Joint Archives of Holland. I am very pleased to receive these copies from you. Now a few questions:

1. Please send a photo copy of the original letters even though they are in very poor shape.
2. Who translated the two letters?
3. Please identify the book or pamphlet out of which the published material on the 25th Michigan infantry came.

Answers to these questions are important for recognition of sources and citations.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain sincerely yours. Elton J. Bruins
<bruins@hope.edu>

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Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 8:46 AM

Urgent New

From: "Roy Olson" <zrolson@worldnet.att.net>

To: Elton Bruins

Subject: Dirk Van Raalte letters, reply

response

Dear Mr. Bruins,

I do not have the original letters. All I have are poor copies of copies.

I have been in touch with the Campbellsville historian. She told me that the originals can be found at Calvin College in Grand Rapids and that they had an extensive collection of Van Raalte letters but she was only interested in the ones pertaining to the battle at Tebbs Bend. Supposedly, the letters were translated at Calvin College. She also wondered, why the college didn't organize and publish the letters that were in their care.

explain

I wish I could identify the book or pamphlet from which the poem and story came from. I've been through numerous items and haven't been able to find anything.

My 90 year old aunt tells me that the pages were sent to my great-great grandmother, Charlotte (Harris) Hicks, sometime after she had been notified of George's death.

I have the original pages and am sending scanned pictures of them to you. The pages measure 4.5 inches by 7.25 inches. They are very frail and somewhat stained.


Due to the size of the JPEGs, I will send them as six separate e-mails with attachment. Pages 12 & intro will be with this message. The rest will have the page numbers in the Subject box, with no message.


If I can be of future assistance, please let me know.

Best regards,

Roy

*2-28
shanked
ram*

 [pages 12 & intro.jpg](#)

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