March 2014


Hope College
Abstract

Son of early immigrant to Groningen, Hendrik Van Eyck; lawyer by profession; Holland City Clerk (1897-1909); first ward alderman (1909-1911); Ottawa County Superintendent of the Poor (1911-1916); Postmaster of Holland (1916-1924); and Ottawa County supervisor (1932-1934). Collection includes a typescript copy of the second volume of *Landmarks of the Reformed Fathers* (published copy available in Heritage Collection).

Accession No.: H88-0169
Provenance: William O. Van Eyck
Donor: Hilda Stegeman
Processed by: Rebecca A. O’Shesky, February 1992

Biography

Born to Hendrik and Hilligje (Hillegje) Van Eyck of Groningen, Michigan, on September 6, 1869. He graduated from Hope College in 1893 and University of Michigan law school. He practiced law in Holland under Arend Visscher and later formed a partnership with Fred T. Miles, but his law career was second to his life in politics. His public servant offices included the Holland City Clerk (1897-1909), first ward alderman (1909-1911), Ottawa County Superintendent of the Poor (1911-1916), Postmaster of Holland (1916-1924), and Ottawa County supervisor (1932-1934).

Known as a solitary man who never married, he spent many years working closely with Gerrit Van Schelven to co-interview many early pioneers from 1898-1934. Van Eyck was also a frequent contributor to the *Holland City News*, with local history topics such as relations between the Ottawa (Odawa) Indians (Native Americans) and Dutch immigrants, sheriffship in Ottawa County; early shipping, local shipwrecks and harbor development, and the first brick home.

Van Eyck passed away after a lengthy illness and surgery on January 24, 1934, in Holland Hospital.

Scope and Content

Biographical information, and a typescript copy of the Union of 1850, a collection of papers by the late William O. Van Eyck, Esq. on the Union of the Classis of Holland with the Reformed Church in America, in June, 1850 (published copy available in Heritage Collection).

Container List

Biographical, 1934, 1950
Papers, n.d.

The Return of 1834 or The Secession in Holland
What Van Raalte Before 1847 of the Reformed Dutch Church
What Van Raalte and the Immigrants Know About the Reformed Dutch Church in 1850
Chips From the Workshop of the Classis of Holland Before 1850
Declaration of Unity in 1850
Colonists’ Report of the Wyckoff Conference
What Wyckoff Said in 1849
Spirit of 1849
The Emigrants’ Platform
The Classis in Action
Groningen
South Holland
Drenthe
The Classis of 1853–1856
All Grand Rapids in an Uproar
Acts of Secession
Rev. Klyn and Judgment Day Law
Weighed in the Balance, But Found Wanting
Diverse Weights and a False Balance
Vriesland
Zeeland
Graafschap
Twelve Pages in Long Hand Against Rev. R. J. Kuiper Pamphlets
Two “Rejected” parts of the Manuscript
Handwritten Notes (3 folders)