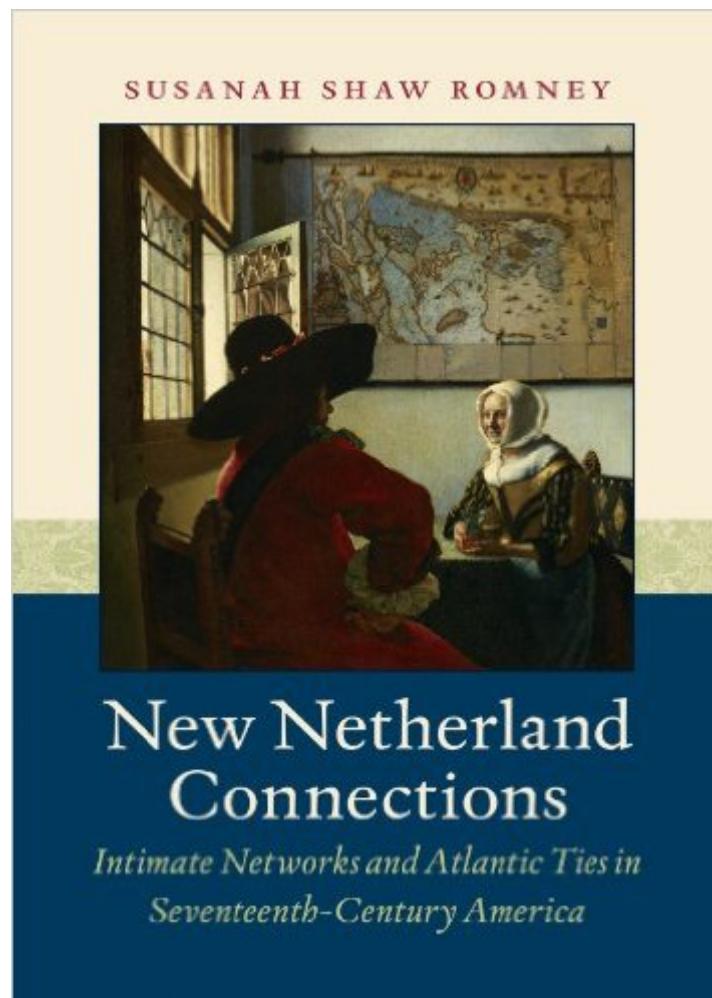


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New Netherland Connections: Intimate Networks And Atlantic Ties In Seventeenth-Century America (Published For The Omohundro Institute Of Early American History And Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia)





Synopsis

Susanah Shaw Romney locates the foundations of the early modern Dutch empire in interpersonal transactions among women and men. As West India Company ships began sailing westward in the early seventeenth century, soldiers, sailors, and settlers drew on kin and social relationships to function within an Atlantic economy and the nascent colony of New Netherland. In the greater Hudson Valley, Dutch newcomers, Native American residents, and enslaved Africans wove a series of intimate networks that reached from the West India Company slave house on Manhattan, to the Haudenosaunee longhouses along the Mohawk River, to the inns and alleys of maritime Amsterdam. Using vivid stories culled from Dutch-language archives, Romney brings to the fore the essential role of women in forming and securing these relationships, and she reveals how a dense web of these intimate networks created imperial structures from the ground up. These structures were equally dependent on male and female labor and rested on small- and large-scale economic exchanges between people from all backgrounds. This work pioneers a new understanding of the development of early modern empire as arising out of personal ties.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

.Well-written and carefully researched."New Netherland Connections" focuses mostly on mid-seventeenth century Dutch life along the Hudson River, exploring the relationships between the old world and the new; women as business people; Native Americans and Dutch; Africans and

Dutch; and all of the above in relation to the English. I was especially interested in the section on Africans in New Netherland, and the sections on Dutch and Indian "go-betweens," as La Malinka, Pocohontas, Sacajewa and Conrad Weiser are often spoken of in this role, but Oratam of Hackensack and Sara Roeloff Kierstede are new to me. With its emphasis on networking and exploration of differing cultural and social norms, this book will be as interesting to sociology and anthropology students as it is to historians. Worth reading. Kim Burdick Stanton, Delaware

Romney writes clearly and has excellent footnotes, amplifying the text and suggesting further reading. I haven't even finished the book yet, but it has already gone beyond what I had been hoping for. I was looking for conversation about how family networks stayed in touch across the Atlantic in the 1600s as the Dutch built out in the North American colony, but she has also taken an extensive look at the grassroots economic network supporting the extension of the Dutch empire across oceans, with credit from ordinary Amsterdammers both enabling and compelling seamen on their voyages. Great stuff! I'm looking forward to devouring the rest of it, anticipating even more revelations as I go.

Beautifully written! Explains the importance of family relationships from Holland to the New World.

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