**Excerpts from the Diary of Daniel Pitersen, a Young Dutch Boy**

**New Amsterdam, 1660**

-March 1: The backroom was cold today. That’s where we sleep, and that’s where our only fireplace is! It’s also where Ma and my sister Kathryne do the cooking.

-March 4: Cold again today. This morning Ma told me I could only bring in four pieces of firewood, because the stack is running low. Usually I get at least seven pieces: 5 for daytime and 2 for night. Today the wood burned down to coals by mid-afternoon. Ma says we have to save the other two for night.

-March 5: Today Papa said it’s time to go up to Harlem and cut some more firewood. Papa, my brother Jansen and I packed up some food, our saws and axes, and sailed the canoe up the river to the unfenced lands in Harlem.

-March 6: Today we are in Harlem. We cut down a big walnut tree and sawed it into pieces. Papa said walnut is a good tree because it will take a long time to burn. More heat! Dragged the wood down to the beach and loaded up the canoe. We got 45 pieces in the boat. That’s one load. We need 60 loads a year!

-March 7: The wind made whitecaps on the river but we arrived home safely. Heard about a man with a raft full of timber that got carried off course and landed on Nutten Island! Pa says we have to take a lot more journeys this spring so we can get the firewood pile stacked up high.

- March 8: Grandpa, Jansen and I were chopping and splitting wood all day. My friend Jacob says he doesn’t have to do much chopping, because their slave Manuel does most of the work.

-May 19: Today we took the horse and wagon up to Harlem and cut a load of firewood. Hauled the wood out of the bush. Now we have 20 loads of wood in the stack. Some of the wood is still green. It will have to dry out for six months before we can use it.

-June 6: I asked Papa why we can’t buy loads of firewood like my friend Pieter’s family does. He said one load costs 20 fl. Multiply that times 60! That’s why.

-July 15: Today Pieter told me that the cart man who sold them loads of wood was cheating. The cart man measured the load with a stick that had 3 notches. He said he was going to use the top notch, but then used a lower one! That’s another reason Papa doesn’t want to buy firewood.

-November 10: Had our first snow today. Wood is dry and Mama let me bring in two extra pieces of firewood for daytime.