PINKSTER DAY OR WHITSUNDAY
AN OLD LONG ISLAND HOLIDAY

The Standard Union, “Pinkster Day or Whitsunday,” May 10, 1908, Page 15.
There is an old Long Island holiday, the name of which is now almost forgotten, but is still celebrated in some localities in the neighborhood of Flatlands and New Lots. The name Pinkster Day is derived from the Dutch word for Pentecost and must have been used at a very early date, for in a Dutch book of sermons written by Adrian Fischer, and printed in 1667 the title of one sermon reads: “A sermon upon the story of the descent of the Holy Ghost on the Apostles on Pinkster Day.” The Jewish feast of the Pentecost was observed on the fiftieth day after the celebration of the Passover, and is the same as Christian holy day Whitsunday, which this year falls on June 7. The week following Whitsunday has been observed with great honor and rejoicing by the Dutch residents of the suburbs of Brooklyn, who made the day a festival, going to Pinkster fields for Pinkster flowers and frolics, exchanging visits and eating soft waffles and drinking schnapps. Groups of young men drove from door to door of the farmhouses in large wagons gayly dressed with branches of cogwood blossoms, and enter each house for a short visit. Various wild flowers were known as Pinkster blossoms, but the beautiful wild azalea, which blooms so plentifully on Long Island in May, was, and is, universally known as the Pinkster flower, or Pinkster bloom, and it is still called by the old Dutch residents Pinkster blummachee.” Another spring flower may apple is also called by the Dutch residents Pinkster bloomi- tze. The swamp pink is also called Pinkster blossoms. On Long Island Pinkster day was widely observed, especially in the towns settled by the Dutch, and now in the quiet farm lands of Flatbush and neighborhood, the descendants of the early Dutch residents still celebrate with feasting, visiting and flower gathering, searching eagerly for the wild azalea, or Pinkster bloom, this quaint old holiday of the Pinkster day.