

National Genealogical Society

GENEALOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

The Society's magazine, *The National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, established in 1912, is published in March, June, September and December of each year. It is included on the list of American learned journals compiled by the American Council of Learned Societies. It presents hitherto unpublished American source material, including abstracts of pension applications, articles on genealogical research, notes of genealogical news, criticisms and reviews of genealogical publications. Contributions for publication should be sent directly to the Editor.

At present *The Quarterly* is carrying two supplements serially in each issue:

1. The *Index of Revolutionary Pension War Applications* in the official files of the National Archives at Washington, D. C. This is an alphabetized list of Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors who applied for federal pensions or for bounty land or whose widow so applied. The full name of the veteran, in many cases of the widow also, and the state from which he served are given; also the number, character and disposition of claim. For bounty land, the warrant number, acreage and date of act are given. Virginia half-pay papers are included. Many references are made to published abstracts. This *Index* is published by installments of 16 pages in each issue of *The National Genealogical Society Quarterly* beginning with March, 1942. An extra printing of additional copies or separates of this *Index* is made for sales in limited numbers to MEMBERS and SUBSCRIBERS.

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- No. 3. *The Development of Early Emigrant Trails*; By Marcus W. Lewis
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Price, to members , to others, .

GENEALOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

Of the

National Genealogical Society

No. 12

DUTCH SYSTEMS IN FAMILY NAMING NEW YORK — NEW JERSEY

By ROSALIE FELLOWS BAILEY, F.A.S.G.

New York City



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DUTCH SYSTEMS IN FAMILY NAMING: NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY¹

By ROSALIE FELLOWS BAILEY, New York City, Fellow of The American Society of Genealogists

Part I

The Dutch Government of New Netherland lasted for only about forty years, but Dutch naming systems persisted here into the nineteenth century and hence are very important in New York and New Jersey genealogical work. Nowadays, these naming systems do not seem to be thoroughly understood. In rebuttal to a recently printed statement, I would say firmly that the Dutch method of naming was very systematic. True, it requires knowledge, resourcefulness, and experience to unravel, but the only genealogists it drives mad are those who expect the Dutch to follow the English system.

The Dutch followed the naming customs of time immemorial, the beginnings of which are to be found in the Bible. The English also had had such naming customs but from them had developed surnames centuries earlier. Most Dutch families (as also the Welsh, Scandinavians, and others) were slower in adopting regular surnames as we know them today. The old naming customs still suited the informal life of farmer and merchant in village and town, and perhaps for this reason persisted. Hence for the Dutch-American colony, genealogists must cope with a naming problem.

I.—THE PATRONYMIC

Identification by the father's first name, that is, the patronymic, was the predominant system among the Dutch in America. Early use of the patronymic is found in the Bible, e.g., two of the apostles are

called James the son of Zebedee and James the son of Alphaeus. Its ultimate development is seen in the typically English surnames Johnson, Jackson, and Richardson, which originally meant that the person was a son of John, of Jack, or of Richard. It still meant that to seventeenth century Dutchmen in America.

Table No. 1 illustrates the patronymic system as used by the male-line ancestors of General Jeremiah Johnson of Brooklyn. Both his names were of Dutch, not English, derivation, and his family was of Dutch origin. Four points shown on this table are discussed here.

First: The emigrant's marriage record, as translated from the records of the Dutch Church of Flatbush, Long Island, appears on the first four lines of the table. It tells us that: (1) the groom's first name was Jan or, in English, John; (2) his father's first name was Barent—the ending *z*, or more commonly *sen*, *sen* and *se*, meaning 'son of';² (3) their surname at the time was apparently Van Driest;³ (4) the groom was a *j. m.*, literally young man but used in the sense of bachelor; (5) he came from and was probably born in Zutphen, province of Gelderland, the Netherlands; (6) he was living at the time of his marriage at Gravesend, Long Island.

This marriage record gives us similar information on the bride's family. So, I need only say that *j. d.* literally means young daughter but is used in the sense of

¹This article is based on an address that was delivered by Miss Bailey before a recent meeting of this Society. When speaking, she brought to life the families discussed, by showing views of the Dutch towns from which they came and pictures of their houses in America, their furniture, silver, china, and portraits. Some were from her own collection, partly gathered on a recent trip to Holland, and others were generously lent for the occasion by The Holland Society of New York and the Museum of the City of New York.

This two-installment article will be available later as a separate publication, for sale by this Society.

²The spelling of 1st and last names and of the patronymic ending varies greatly, depending on the carefulness or laxity of the scribe or of the individual signing his name, and Dutch genealogists disregard the variations as having no meaning whatsoever, according to William J. Hoffman. A rare form is seen in "Johannis de Wint, Johs. Z." sponsor in 1774, the added letters meaning 'son of Johannis'; see Mrs. Louise Zimm, in NYGB Record, 83:167.

³There is a village of Dries in the province of Limburg; but see theory of name corruption in The Washington Ancestry. Chas. A. Hoppin, 111:9.

Table No. 1. JOHNSON FAMILY of Western Long Island

JAN BARENTZ VAN DRIEST—signed his name "Jan Barens"

j. m. from Zutphen, Gelderland, living in Gravesend

m. 1679 JANNETJE WILLEMS VAN BORKELOO, j. d.

born New York, living in Flatbush

Jannetje wid. of John Barendsz, dec'd, m. 2nd in 1699

"BARENT JANSEN" of Gravesend
bp. 1681

m. MARIA STILLWELL, b. 1683
dau. of Nicholas and Catharine

CORNELIA JANS MARGARET JANSE
bp. 1684 bp. 1695

WILLIAM JANSEN

JAN BARENTSE JANSEN of Jamaica
or "John Johnson"—in his 1757 will

m. 1732

CATELINA SCHENCK, b. 1705
dau. of Martin R. and Jannetje,
sis. of Jannetje m. Jeremias Remsen,
whose heir was Barent Johnson, below.

NICHOLAS

BARENT

WILLIAM
bp. 1717

CATHARINE

MARY
bp. 1733

CATALINA
bp. 1735

BARENT JOHNSON
1740-1782 of Wallabout
m. 1764 ANNE REMSEN,
dau. of Jeromus

JOHANNES

MARTIN

CATHARINE

ELIZABETH

JEREMIAH JOHNSON
b. 1766: Maj. Gen.

CATHALINA

JOHN

JEROMUS JOHNSON
b. 1775: U. S. Congressman

MARTIN

unmarried maiden. If they were widower and widow, the entries would have been *Wedr.* and *Wede.* respectively. In the bride's name 'Willems', meaning daughter of William, we have the single *s* suffix, mostly used for the feminine possessive on Dutch-American records; *se*, *sd*, *sdr*, and even *sen* also appear; the full suffix is *sdochter*, meaning 'daughter of'.²

Second: This man's name appears on the church records as Jan Barents Van Driest. He signed the 1687 oath of allegiance as Jan barensse Van Zutphen, 30 years in this country. But he usually signed simply with his patronymic, Jan Barens or Jan Barnsen.⁴

Third: Notice how the next two generations also used their patronymics. His children, of course, had the patronymic Jansen, Janse or Jans, as his own name was Jan. And his son Barent's children had the patronymic Barentse.

But by that time the custom of an established surname had become prevalent and either they had forgotten their former surname or they preferred to keep their

father's patronymic as the family surname. So Jan Barentse of the third generation called himself Jan Barentse Jansen⁵ and, by the time he wrote his will in 1757, he had anglicized this to John Johnson.

Fourth: First names appear over and over. This is because the Dutch almost invariably named children for the grandparents, provided the sex made it possible. On this table, only one grandparent—Jannetje Schenck—seems overlooked in the naming of four generations of children. The systems in giving first names will be discussed in the second installment of this article.

Table No. 2 illustrates the differences in eventual surname that are a natural result of the patronymic system. In this example, families named Adriance, Martense, Ryers(s) and maybe Ryerson descend in the *male* line from the same ancestor, having perpetuated different patronymics of the same family.

⁴An individual's name taken from a signature is shown in quotation marks on the tables.

⁵The name Jan Barentse Jansen might be considered a use of the double patronymic, common in Holland. As such, it would mean: John the son of Barent who was the son of John.

<i>Emigrants</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Sons of Sons</i>	<i>Eventual Surname</i>
	JANNETJE ARIENS b. 1660		
	"ELBERT ADRIAENSEN" b. 1663 m. Catalyntje Remsen	REM ADRIANCE and ELBERT ADRIANCE both of Queens Co.	ADRIANCE
"ADRIAEN RYERSE"	"MARTEN ADRIAENS" b. 1668 m. Sarah Remsen	REM MARTENSE GERRIT MARTENSE ADRIAN MARTENSE all of Kings Co.	MARTENSE
"ADRIAEN REYERSEN" or ARIAN REYERZ emigrated 1646 died 1710	MARGRIETJE ADRIAENS b. 1670		
m. 1659 Annetje Martens Schenck	NEELTJE ADRIAENS b. 1675		
	ABRAM ADRIAENSE bp. 1680		
	SARA ADRIAENS bp. 1680		
	REYER ADRIAENSZEN bp. 1683	(prob) REYER RYERS of Bergen Co.	RYERS RYERSON
	GOSEN ADRIAANSZ bp. 1686 m. Femmetje Vanderbilt	"ADRIAN RYERSE" of Richmond Co. b. 1715	RYERS RYERSS
	MARRITJE REYERS or MARTENS bp. 1664	RYERSON (with slight variants) (per Ryerson Genealogy— (New Jersey and Long Island))	RYERSON
	JORIS MARTENSZEN or RYERSE b. 1666		
	RYER MARTENSE b. 1669		
	CATHALYNTIE MARTENS bp. 1671		
"MARTEN REYERSEN" from Amsterdam	SARA MARTENS or REYERS bp. 1673		
	GEERTJE MARTENS		
	JACOBUS RYERSE bp. 1677		
	HELENA MARTENS or REYERSE bp. 1682		
	CORNELIS MARTENSE or RYERSE b. 1684		
	FRANS REYERSE bp. 1685		

Table No. 2. RYERSON—RYERS—MARTENSE—ADRIANCE

In the first column of this table are two emigrants, called brothers⁹ I strongly question this relationship since they did not act as sponsors for each other's children as was customary among Dutch relatives. No such relationship should be assumed until a record to that effect is found. All we know is that both had a father whose first name was Reyer.

The emigrant Marten Reyersen's children at first used their own patronymic—Martense, meaning child of Marten, but later preferred their father's, and his descendants in the male line all perpetuated his own patronymic in the anglicized spelling of Ryerson.

Not so with the other emigrant Adriaen. His children's patronymic was of course Adriaens, and this they used, with the many spelling variants one expects to find on seventeenth century records.

In the third generation of Adriaen's family, we find considerable variation: (1) The eldest son's children perpetuated their father's patronymic in the anglicized version of Adriaence. (2) The second son's children continued the variant patronymic system one generation longer and so they called themselves Martense, meaning son of Marten, and Martense was the surname of his descendants. (3) It is said that the emigrant's younger son Reyer Adriaensen probably had a son Reyer Ryers; if so, he also continued the old system of using his father's first name, which his descendants perpetuated as Ryers or Ryerson. (4) The emigrant's youngest son Gozen Adriaansz had a son Adrian Ryerse; he perpetuated his *grandfather's* patronymic, which is rather surprising but might be explained by his being so much younger than the others that he was born in the eighteenth century when surnames were already in regular use, and evidently he considered his surname to be that of his grandfather.

It is important to remember that the eventual surnames in a family often became established in different branches at different generations. Once the patrony-

mic system is thoroughly understood and the searcher is alert to the possible changing of "last" names with each generation, tracing forward presents relatively little difficulty, since one knows the correct patronymic for the next generation and one usually knows of any other existing "last" names (discussed later) that might gain preference with the next generation.

Tracing backward is far harder under the patronymic system, because the searcher does not know the "last" name used by each earlier generation. For example, referring to *Table No. 2*, who would guess that Gerrit Martense was the son of Adriaen Reyersen's son? The three angles by which to approach this problem—first names, wife's maiden name, and children's sponsors—are to be discussed in the second installment of this article.

With the patronymic system it is seldom possible, unless there is long-term land ownership or an unusual first name in the family, for a genealogist to tackle the problem at both ends, tracing both forwards and backwards as can be done to advantage with established surnames.

Another difficulty with the patronymic is in identifying an isolated biographical item with a specific individual. This, however, is merely an aggravation of the genealogist's perpetual problem, for while there would be countless unrelated Dutch families called Janszen (meaning that their fathers' name was John), even with surnames, all John Smith items do not concern the same person. Referring to *Table No. 1*, this emigrant and his son seemed to be the Jan Barents of Kings County on whose estate administration was granted 1706/7 to eldest son Barent Johnson, until the explicitly worded 1699 Gravesend Town record⁷ of the widow's remarriage showed that this emigrant had died a decade earlier; the 1706/7 administration undoubtedly belonged to a father and son having these same names who lived in nearby Flatbush and were ancestors of the Blom family.

⁹Called brothers by both Bergen and *The Ryerson Genealogy* without mentioning evidence, and perhaps on the basis of a similar "last name." The name of Adriaen's son Marten derives, under Dutch custom, from his maternal grandfather; it is merely a coincidence that the other emigrant was also named Marten. No evidence has been produced that Adriaen came from Amsterdam as did Marten

according to the latter's marriage record. On the contrary, it is relatively certain that Adriaen who emigrated as a child in about 1646 is to be identified with Adriaen the son of Reyer Elbertsz and Marietje Barentsdr who came from the province of Utrecht and settled at Albany by 1651, she having had by her previous husband a son Goosen Gerrits van Schaek; see NYGB Record, 70:117 and Riker's *Harlem*.

⁷Printed in NYGB Record, 4:200.

As may be inferred from the preceding example, a genealogist's difficulty is most likely to be in segregating unrelated people. Searchers who disregard the Dutch system go widely astray by assuming that those with the same "last" name in a village are related. In fact, first cousins using their patronymics had different "last" names, as shown by Rem Adriance and Rem Martense in *Table No. 2*.

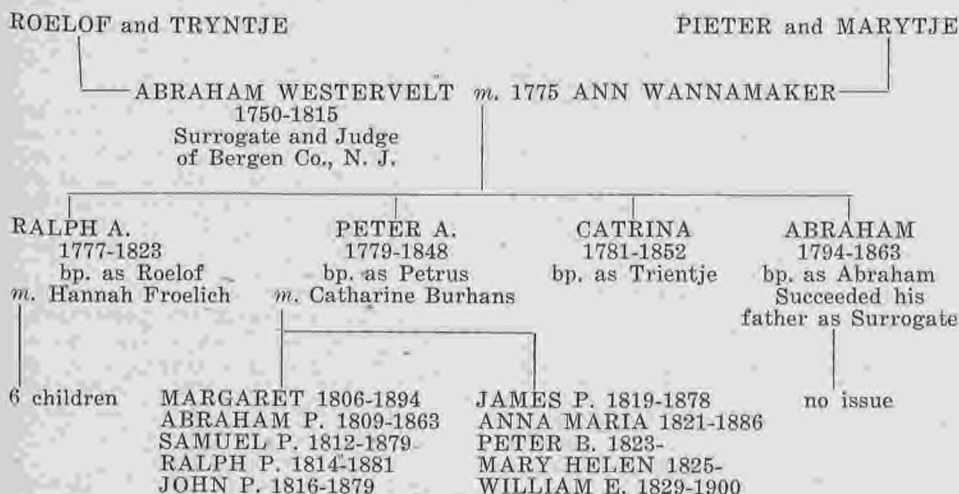
The genealogist is greatly helped by a subsequent development of the patronymic. Tables No. 1, 4 and 5 show the patronymic continuing in use as a middle name. Later this patronymic was shortened to a middle initial as shown in *Table No. 3*.

This table of a small group in the large Westervelt family⁸ is particularly interesting in showing use of the middle initial patronymic as late as the middle nineteenth century. Observe that two of Abraham's sons used the middle initial "A" and that five of Peter's sons used the middle initial "P", the initials standing for the old patronymics Abrahamszen and Pieterszen respectively. Note also that Abraham P. and his uncle Abraham Westervelt had such a similar life span that they died the same year; but they need not be confused because of the middle initial.

This custom is very helpful to the genealogist when dealing with large families, in which there might be several cousins as well as young uncles who were more or

Table No. 3. WESTERVELT—FAMILY GROUP

In the Nineteenth Century



less contemporaries. This middle initial often permits the genealogist familiar with Dutch first names to make an intelligent guess of the father's first name.

A pitfall for the unwary is to assume that an unfamiliar Dutch name is a surname and that all of the name are related. For instance, Rycken is not a surname; it is the possessive form of Ryck, which is one of the Dutch equivalents of our English name Richard. The Suydam family descends from the Flatbush settler who signed his name hendrick Rijken and Heyndrick Reycke van Zutphen, his son signing as van Suytdam.⁹ Contrary to

statements in Riker's *Annals of Newtown*, the Suydams are a family distinct from⁹ the Rikers and Lents, although the two latter are related as they descend from the emigrant Abraham Rycken.

Abraham Rycken was known only by his variously spelled patronymic; it meant that he was son of a man whose first name was Richard. His children, as could be expected under the Dutch system, used the patronymic Abrahamszen. His two middle sons, reacting to the English prefer-

⁸Based on *Genealogy of the Westervelt Family*, W. T. Westervelt, 1905.

⁹Hoffman, in *NYGB Record*, 67:58 and 72:314; Lila J. Roney, in *ibid*, 78:37.

Table No. 4. LENT FAMILY OF WESTCHESTER and QUEENS COUNTIES

ABRAHAM RYCKEN—usual spelling on New Amsterdam land and court records from 1640 Reycke; Rycken and Rycke—in 1656 deposition; variations on land records Ryck, Rycke, and Rycken—at baptisms of his children, 1640-1662.
Abraham Rick, of Newtown—in his 1688 will.

Youngest Son of the Emigrant:

HENDRICK ABRAHAMSZEN { at baptisms of 5 of his children in N. Y. C., 1681-
Hendrick Rycke(n) { 1692 all with his wife Catryn Jans.

Hendrick Abramzen {
Hendrick Abramse Van Lent { at baptisms of children in Tarrytown, 1697-1699.
Hendrick Lent—wife of, on Tarrytown Church membership list of 1697-1715.

Eldest Son of the Emigrant:

RYCK ABRAHAMSZEN—at baptisms of his children in N. Y. C., 1673-1687.
Rick Abrahamsen—in his father's will, 1688.
Ryck Abramse—chosen deacon of Tarrytown Dutch Church, 1698.
Ryck Abrahamsent Lent, of Manor of Cortlandt—in his 1720 will.

Eldest Son of the Eldest Son:

ABRAHAM RYCKE j. m. Van de Armen Bouwerye—in his 1698 marriage, N. Y. C.
Abraham Ryke—at baptisms of his children in Jamaica Dutch Church, 1702-1707.
Abraham Lent, of Newtown—in his 1742 will.

ence for established family names, also used versions of their father's patronymic and were known as Jan Abrahamszen or Jan Rycker, and as Abraham Abrahamsz Rycke or Abraham Rycke; they are the progenitors of the Ryker or Riker family. On the other hand, the emigrant's oldest and youngest sons are the ancestors of the Lent family. The name Lent may be a clue to the family's origin, since there is a village called Lent in the province of Gelderland. Table No. 4 shows the gradual change from the variant patronymic to the surname Lent.

II.—THE PLACE-ORIGIN SURNAME

In the Bible are numerous examples of individuals referred to by their place of origin, e.g. Jesus of Nazareth and Simon the Canaanite. A great many English surnames fall in this group; for example the name Washington, whose suffix 'ton' means an estate or farm. The Dutchman's place-origin name is more readily recognizable, because it is so often prefixed by 'van', meaning 'from'.¹⁰ This

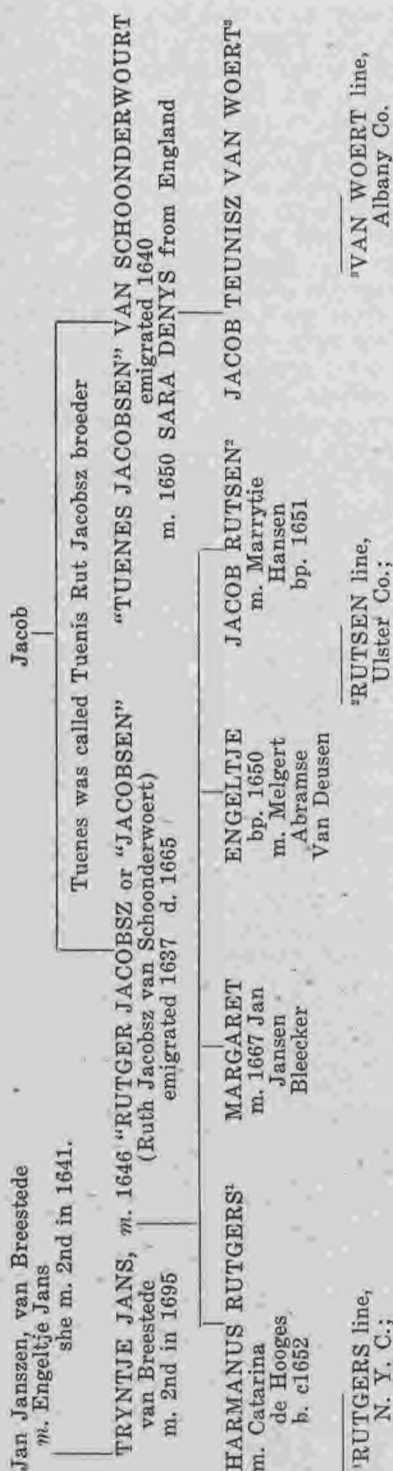
naming method was very popular with the Dutchman in America, both as means of identification and as established surname.

Early Dutch-American names might refer to:¹⁰

1. A nationality, such as de Noorman and Switzer, meaning the Norseman and a Swiss. Such names usually did not become established as surnames among the Dutch, but we have the family de Vries, meaning The Frisian, i.e. from the province of Friesland;
2. A town or village, such as van Antwerp, van Doorn, and Oosterhout;
3. A small local district, such as van Cortlandt, van Slichtenhorst, and Wynkoop; the latter, though translatable as wine merchant, derives from the Wenkop District in the Province of Gelderland;
4. A named farm-estate (in Dutch a 'hof' or 'hoeve'; often small but always with a dwelling), home of the owner or leaseholder or of his tenant, such as van Twiller, van Rensselaer, and van Corlaer;
5. A named farm-estate (same as 4), whose hired farmhands and servants often took its name, although unrelated to the family in the main dwelling;
6. A named field (same derivation as 4), such as Roosevelt and Westervelt;
7. A named small farm, occupied and worked by a farmer or peasant (in Dutch a 'boer'); often a subdivision of a farm-estate.
8. A house, such as Schepmoes, which arose because this family lived in Delft in the house with the sign of

¹⁰A last name starting with 'van' is not necessarily a place-surname (though it usually is); e.g. Van der Spiegel, a family name by 1585, means 'from the looking glass': NYGB Record, 63:11. Most of these place-origin surname examples are taken from Mr. Hoffman's studies in *ibid*. He wrote me that in the Netherlands large numbers of properties had names, whether of large or small acreage, with or without buildings. As those who owned, occupied, or worked on the property often took its name, many families of the same name were unrelated. Moreover, if the family changed its handholdings, it often changed its family surname accordingly. See comments of four Dutch genealogists in *ibid*, 72:24 and in *The American Genealogist*, 28:178 and 29:26.

Table No. 5. VAN WOERT—RUTGERS—RUTSEN



¹t Schepmoes—evidently a dish of stew with a ladle;

9. A local habitat, such as van Hoek—from the corner; Opdyck, on the dike; Hoogland, high land; and Beekman, man from the brook.

Table No. 5 illustrates the development of a place-origin surname, as well as patronymic variants established in the same family. In this example, the place surname Van Woert originated from the family's home village of Schoonrewoerd, in the Province of South Holland.

The first American generation consisted of two men whom we know to have been brothers because in one record Teunes was entered as Tuenis Rut Jacobsz broeder, that is, as Tuenis brother of Rut the son of Jacob. He signed records simply Tuenes Jacobsen but the original of his 1650 marriage record in New Amsterdam reads: "Teunis Jacobszen van Schoonderwoert, j. m. en Sara denys, j. d. Uyt oudt Engelant."¹¹ This couple's son was Jacob Teunisz Van Woert. Notice the significance of the name: First name Jacob after his grandfather, middle name Teunisz a patronymic based on his father's first name, and surname Van Woert which was a shortened and more easily pronounced version of his father's name of origin—Van Schoonderwoert. The descendants of this branch bore the name Van Woert.

The other emigrant was Rutger or Ruth (the Dutch 'h' is silent, so it is not our feminine name Ruth). He was a magistrate at Albany. As witness for two 1663 records he was termed Ruth Jacobsz van Schoonderwoert, but he signed both simply Rutger Jacobsz. His 1646 original marriage record reads: "Ruth Jacobszen, j. m. van Renselaerswyck en Tryntje Janszen, j. d. van Breestede." In the early Dutch Church records, the place usually denoted birthplace, but in this instance van Renselaerswyck referred to his current place of residence in the Albany region.

His sons used patronymics based on variants of his first name: one son Har-

¹¹In the printed version a comma appears thus: " . . . Jacobszen, Van . . ." Numerous entries in the original marriage records have such a comma, thereby indicating that the place name was not a real surname since commas would not have been used to separate patronymic and surname.

manus Rutgers is the ancestor of the Rutgers family, while the other son Jacob Rutsen is the ancestor of Rutsen family. The table shows there were two first cousins named Jacob who need never be confused because they used different last names.

One of the Van den Bergh families is an instance of a surname derived from a farm in America. In 1654 the lease "of the farm called de Hoogeberch" on the van Rensselaer patroonship was renewed by Gijsbert Cornelisz van Breukelen. He came from Breukelen in the province of Utrecht, and because of this farm, called the high hill, he was often referred to as van den Hoogenberch or as aen den Berch.¹² His sons perpetuated the name as van den Bergh.

Vanderveer (Van der Veer), translated, means 'from the ferry'. The American settler evidently took this name from the ferry to the mainland that was near his ancestral home on South Beveland island in the province of Zeeland. Coming from that region, he was often referred to as "Seeu" or "DeZeeuw", both terms meaning The Zeelander. In 1680 he sold lands in Flatbush, Long Island as Cornelis Jansz Vanderveer, but signed the deed Cornelis Janssen Seeu. He must not be confused with another Cornelius Jansz Seeu of nearby Bushwick, an ancestor of the Losee family. In Holland he had been known as Cornelisz Jansz Dominicus, as we learn from a 1706 power of attorney by the American relatives to a son Dominicus van der Veer to collect money due them in Holland. He belonged to the Dominicus family of South Beveland, the family's name having been a patronymic derived from the emigrant's great grandfather Dominicus Jansz.¹³

The informality of the early years was continued on occasion by the English even on a formal record. For example, in the 1687 patent to the Town of Bushwick, issued by Governor Dongan, one of the boundaries is described as Jan the Swede's meadow.

The place-origin identification was sometimes as popular as the family surname. Thus, Jan Cornelissen Joncker,

who was killed by the Indians in 1643, usually appears on the records as Jan van (from) Rotterdam, also as Jan Cornelissen Van Rotterdam. His son Jan Janszen Joncker(s) appears usually as Jan Jansen van Rotterdam, and in Schenectady as Jan Janszen Jonckers Van Rotterdam. The third generation were called Jonckers.¹⁴

The query often arises: "Is the 'Van' part of the name? Should it, or should it not, have been translated?" No clue is derived by noting whether it is capitalized, because the "Van" of a person's name is customarily written with a small 'v' on Dutch records and equally on Dutch-American records, as can be seen in the reproduction of the first page of the Dutch Church of New Amsterdam's marriage records in the NYGB *Collections*, opp. p. 10). Unfortunately we are misled on this point by the American editors of these and other records who have not kept to the original, usually printing it as "V" in the subsequent American fashion.

III. THE OCCUPATIONAL SURNAME

Occupational identification forms another large group of names in all nations. In the Bible we find John the Baptist, Matthew the Publican, and Simon the Sorcerer. English examples are the names Smith, Baker, and Taylor. The Germanic name Eisenhower means iron hammerer.

Among Dutch-American surnames, we have: (1) Smit or Smid, from the smith or forger; (2) Bleecker, from a bleacher of cloth; (3) Schenck, meaning a filler or butler or cupbearer; (4) Koylert, modernized to Cuyler, a surname as far back as 1502, meaning an archer or crossbowman; (5) Wantenaer, or glovemaker; (6) Blauvelt or blue field, referring to the flax farmer; and (7) de Clark, or the clerk.

Our limited knowledge of most emigrants' ancestors prevents us from being certain that any occupational surname was actually developed in New Netherland from a settler's own occupation. Presumably we have an example in the emigrant ancestor of the Cooper family, both because he did not use the name himself—the inference being that neither the trade nor the name was hereditary—and because the two occupational names applied

¹²Van Rensselaer Bowler Manuscripts, ed. A. J. F. Van Laer, pp. 731, 735, 769, 837.

¹³Letter D. Mapes, in NYGB Record, 68:202; see also Hoffman, *ibid.* 79:76.

¹⁴Howard S. F. Randolph, in NYGB Record, 59:302.

to him are those of closely allied trades such as one man might logically follow in his lifetime.

Table No. 6 shows¹⁶ that not until his burial record was the emigrant called by the name borne by his sons and descendants—Kuyper, later Cooper. He usually appears under some spelling variant of his patronymic or of his place of origin (Purmerend is a town in the province of North Holland). Indexes are of slight use when a genealogist is dealing with a man whose "last name" might start with the letter C, J, K, P, R, or V. That all these records concern the one man is amply proved by the appearance of his wife's name in conjunction with the variants of his own. The Dutch wife's continued use of her maiden name and the variations in her naming will be discussed in the second installment of this article.

The Dutch in America also continued to make use of the occupation in the old way, that is, as identification rather than as surname. For instance, Frederick Arentsz Blom appears on New Amsterdam court records as Frerick Aresen, his patronymic; and as Frerick de Drayer, his trade of wood turner. Dirck Claessen was more often called Dirck de Pottebacker (the potter). Jan Cornelis Buys was

also known as John the Soldier, and he was called such in an English land patent of 1671 issued by Governor Carteret.

The emigrant ancestor of the Quick family of New York and New Jersey appears on different records with four different "last" names: 1. his patronymic; 2. his surname; 3. his place of origin; and 4. his trade¹⁷. That they belong to one man is proved by the appearance of his wife Belitje Jacobs in conjunction with them. On 1645-1659 court and land records concerning one lot, he is Teunis Tomassen Van Naarden and also Teunis Tomassen Quick. On the first and third baptismal entries for their children in New Amsterdam given below, his name on the printed version appears as Theunis Thomas; Theunis Thomasz Metselaer; Teunis Thomaszen Metselaer; Theunis Thomas Metselaer; and Theunis de Metselaer; but on the original records, is shown as Theunis Thomas; Theunis Thomas metse-laer; Teunis Thomaszen metselaer; Theu-laer, Teunis Thomaszen metselaer, Theunis Thomas, metselaer; and Theunis de metselaer.

His trade was that of a mason (metse-laer, a mason). The proclivity of some American editors for capitalizing all Dutch words tends to hide a clue to the

Table No. 6. EMIGRANT ANCESTOR OF THE COOPER FAMILY
of Bergen and Tappan

Claes Janszen Van Purmesendt—1656 marriage record:		
To Anneken Cornelis, Van Voorst		
van purmerendt—in the original record.		
Claes Janszen Jansen Janse	} —1657-82 birth and baptismal records of his children in the Dutch churches, N. Y. C. and Bergen, N. J.; with wife Anntjen (Anneken, Annetie) Cornelis	
Claes Jansen, wheelright, from Purmerende		
1659 passenger list, as printed.		
jansen vanpurmerent ramaker (in the original record).		
Claes Janzen Ramaacker—1665 appointment as guardian. (rademaaker—a wheelright)		
	van Purmurent	} land patents, mostly of the New Jersey Government, referring back to 1655 and 1658 in one case, but dated 1662, 1668, 1671 and 1677
	Purmerent	
	van Purmarant	
	Van Purmerant	
Claes Jansen	van Purmerent	
	Van Purmerent	
Claes Jansen, appointed schepen at Ahasymus, N. J. in 1674;		
Claes Janson Vansarmarant, appointed surveyor of highways, 1682 law ("p" misread for s);		
Claes Jansen Kuyper, 1688 burial record, Bergen Dutch Church (kuyper—a cooper);		
Annetje Cornelis, wid. of the late Claes Janse, acted as sponsor 1695 and 1697;		
Annetje, wid. of Claes Jansen Van Purmerent, bought land in 1691;		
Anna Cooper (signed Annetje Cornelis) and son, sold land 1714 to the other son;		
Annetje Stoffels, wid. of Claes Jansen Kuyper, buried 1725.		

¹⁶Based on John R. Totten's study of various Claes Jansens, in NYGB Record, 65:27.

¹⁷A Genealogy of the Quick Family, A. C. Quick, c1942.

possibility of a designation being a trade rather than a surname, although in this case it is also suggested by the comma. The Dutch of that era tended to undercapitalize; they seldom capitalized the occupation and sometimes wrote their own names with small letters.

The Latinized surname might be considered an occupational name. Originally it denoted a university degree, and hence usually a minister. Latinization might involve addition of Latin endings or complete translation. Thus in the case of two New Amsterdam ministers, Everardus Bogardus was born Evert Bogaert, son of Willem Bogaert, and Megapolensis is a translation of Grootstadt, meaning "big city."

IV. THE PERSONAL-CHARACTERISTIC NAME

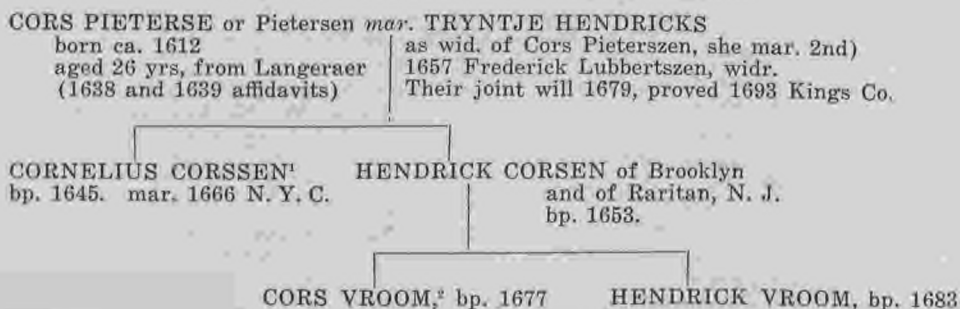
The personal characteristic seems to form the smallest group of Dutch-American surnames except as it appears in nicknames. This is a large group among English surnames, e.g. Long, Handy, Strong, Gay, Wise, and White. In the Bible, St. Peter was termed "Simon called Peter" (because of his strength and dependability, peter being the Greek word for rock). We are, however, more familiar with the beginnings of this method

of naming through the kings, e.g. Richard the Lion-hearted, William the Silent, and William the Conqueror.

Among Dutch-American surnames of this group are: (1) Vroom and Vrooman, meaning a pious or wise man, (2) Stille, or silent, (3) Krom, meaning bent or crooked (in the sense of cripple), (4) Krankheyt or Cronkhite, meaning sickness (in the sense of invalid), (5) de Groot, or the big man, (6) de Lange, or the tall man, (7) de Witt, meaning the white one (presumably a light-haired or light-complexioned man), and (8) de Wint, which a 1648 Dutch-English dictionary tells us means wind, fuss, hubbub, and braggard. As can be seen from these instances, *de* is the Dutch word for *the*. Many Americans erroneously assume that names compounded with *de* are necessarily of French origin.

Table No. 7 shows a personal-characteristic surname and the patronymic's being established in two branches of one family. The name Vroom was not used by or for the American emigrant on the records here, but his youngest son was the progenitor of the Vrooms. Was the name descriptive of the personality of either? and hence used by the New Jersey branch of this family to differentiate them from

Table No. 7. CORSEN and VROOM FAMILIES



¹CORSEN line, Staten Island.

²VROOM line, New Jersey.

an unrelated Corson family in the same New Jersey community? Only investigation in Holland can determine whether Vroom had been a family surname generations earlier, as is possible since their home village of Langerær is only 6 miles from Leiden where lived two family groups named Vrooman and Vromans.³⁷

Storm van der Zee's entire name is per-

sonal history. He was born in a storm on the sea during his family's 1636 voyage to America. He and his descendants used the surname van der Zee, although his father's and brothers' surname was Bratt³⁸.

³⁷Based on *Three Hundred Years with the Corson Families in America*, Orville Corson, 1939. See also NYGB Record, 67:145.

³⁸Donald Lines Jacobus, in *The American Genealogist*, 24:231.

The frankness with which the Dutch appraised each other is well-known through their paintings. If there was a wart on a person's nose, it appeared there in his portrait. The similar candor and frequency with which they bestowed nicknames is illuminative of the person's character or appearance although, until unravelled, this proclivity adds to a genealogist's problems. Jacob Hellakers was more often called by his nickname Jacob Swart (meaning black or swarthy). He also appears as Jacob Hellekeers Swart and once as Jacob Helleckers alias the Black Carpenter⁷⁴.

Other nicknames include: JACOB JANSEN van ETREN—nickname—Jacob Jansen de lang alias long Jacob—the tall one; JACOB CORN. VAN den BOGAARD, nickname Jacob Vos or Vosch or Jacob Corn Voss-fox, hence foxy or cunning; JAN HENDRICHSEN STILMAN, nickname Jno Coopal or Jan Hendrickes Copal—buying everything, hence grabby (?); CLAES JANSEN, nickname, nickname Jan Pottagie—soup Johnie, meaning buffoon; PIETER ADRIAENSZEN, nickname alias Soo Gemackel-yck—so easy going; HENDRIK PIETERS van Hasselt, nickname alias, kint in't water—child in the water.

This habit of nicknames continued into the English period. Thus the minutes of New York City Council of 1691 mention "that Topknot Betty and her children be provided for," "that the treasurer pay English Smith."

V. THE ORDER OF NAMES

The following is the usual order of Dutch-American names when there are two or more components⁷⁵:

1. The social status, if used, which was seldom; 2. the first name; 3. the patronymic; 4. the surname, if any and if used; 5. the place of origin or residence; 6. and any term used to indicate occupation.

A good illustration of this order is the 1679 marriage record shown on Table No. 1 which uses consecutively the above second, third, fourth and both parts of the fifth item. The Rutger Jacobsz of Table No. 5 was a commissaris, that is, a magis-

trate; a window installed in his honour in the Albany Dutch Church in 1656 was inscribed Rutger Jacobsen Commissaris 1656—second, third and sixth items. The Teunis Quick of the text appears on his 1640 power of attorney, unprinted, as Teunes Tomassen van Naerden, mason—second, third, fifth and sixth items. In this text we also have Cornelis Janssen Seeu—second, third and fifth item, John the Soldier—second and sixth items, and Jan Cornelissen Joncker, usually called Jan van Rotterdam—second, third and fourth items, or second and fifth items.

The "social" status of an individual was only rarely noted by the Dutch, according to Mr. William J. Hoffman, who says that Dutch terms of status, when used, appear before the name, and never afterward, as do the English terms "gentleman" and "yeoman". He has kindly supplied the terms of status found on Dutch-American records together with their usual seventeenth century meaning,⁷⁶ as follows:

1. Joncker—member of the nobility, e.g. Joneker Balthazer Vos or Vosch;
2. de Heer, de Hr or 'dhr'—Hon., used primarily for officials, magistrates, and the like, e.g. de Heer Cornelis van Tienhoven, councillor;
3. Sieur, Sinjeur or 'Sr'—a man of standing, e.g. Sieur Johannes de Peyster;
4. Doe, Dom, D, etc.—Rev. (short forms of Domine); also Ds (university degree for ministers);
5. Dr—doctor of law, university degree for lawyers, e.g. Mr. or Dr. Lubbert van Dincklagen;
6. Mr—not at all the equivalent of the English "Mr." but master, i.e., master of the guild or master in some occupation, schoolmaster (schoolmeester), surgeon (heel meester, meaning healing master), and master at law (the degree); e.g. Mr. Hans Kierstede, chirurgon; Mr. Evert Pieterszen, schoolmaster.
7. Juffrouw or "Joffr"—important married woman; Mevrouw for a very important woman, but almost never used here, e.g., Mevrouw van Ryswyck.

Knowledge of the usual order in the component parts of a Dutch name will sometimes help the genealogist in deciding what is and what is not a surname.

If the order or the translation in a printed record seems contradictory, consult the original⁷⁷ before making a decision.

⁷⁴Randolph, in NYGB Record, 68:6.
⁷⁵Leffler M. A. Haughwout, in NYGB Record, 68:129, except that his grouping of social status at the end with occupation obviously refers to later English usage.

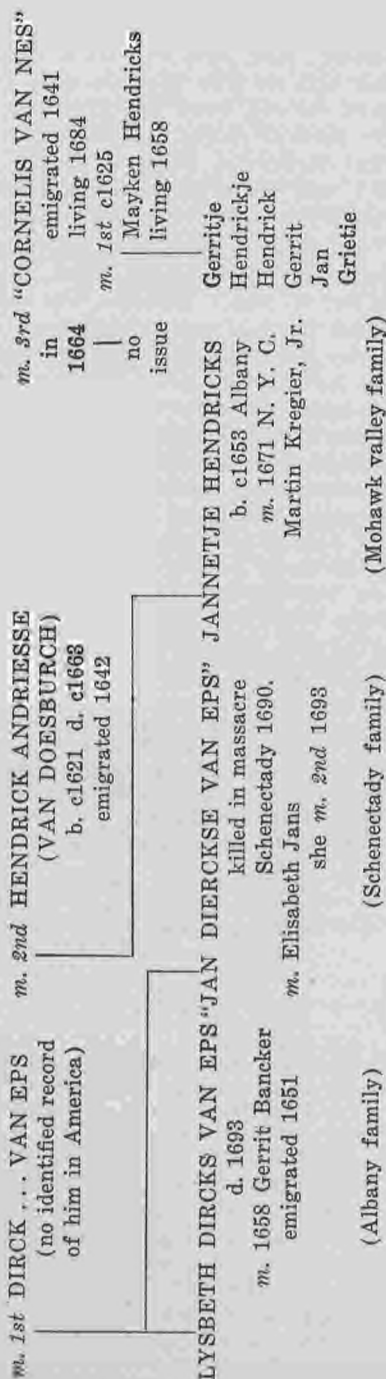
⁷⁶The following century saw many changes: in America, confusingly gradual displacement by English customs; in Holland, use of cumbersome courtesy titles and later an official Dutch nobility.

⁷⁷For example of reversal of order by translator or editor, see Table No. 6; also NYGB Record, 68:129 for translation of an occupational name.

Part II

VI. LAST NAMES OF MARRIED WOMEN

Table No. 8. FAMILY OF THE THrice-MARRIED MARITIE DAMEN
 "MAERRIEN DAEMAN" (as she signed her name) d. c1681



Under the Dutch system, the woman did not change her name upon marriage. This custom of keeping her own name is of great help to the genealogist. So much stress is laid, and rightly so, on the importance of godparents in Dutch genealogical work, that I present in *Table No. 8* an example in which they were *not* needed to compile a family, this family having been proved by means of the woman's identity.

Maritie Damen as she was usually called on the records, but Maerrien Daeman as she signed herself, lived in the Albany, N. Y. area. In the absence of church records there for that period, we identify her husbands and children in the following typically Dutch records:²⁰

(1) 1664 Maria Damen, lastly widow of the late Hendrick Andriesz van Doesburch, proposing to marry again, makes a settlement on their minor daughter, Jannetie Hendricxsz, aged now about 11 years, of the equivalent of said child's paternal property;

(2) 1664 Agreement of the Hon. Cornelis van Nes, councillor, widower of Maeyke Hendrick van den Burchgraeff, with their children Roeloff Cornelissz husband of Gerritje Cornelis van Nes, Jan Janssz van Oothout husband of Hendrickie Cornelis van Nes, and Hendrick, Gerrit and Jan Cornelissz van Nes, and for Pieter Claesz husband of Grietie Cornelis van Nes of Amersfoort, concerning their maternal inheritance, including property under the 1635 will of Hendrick Andriansz late father of said Maeyken Hendricksz;

(3) 1667 Cornelis Van Nes grants land and house in Schenectady to Jan Eps, son (*voorsoon*—son before van Nes) of his present wife, Maritie Damens;

(4) 1668 Hon. Cornelis Van Nes and Maritie Damen, last widow of Hendrick Andriesse deceased and now his wife, dwelling here in Albany, give their power of attorney, to collect money for each due in Holland, to Lysbet Dirckse Van Eps daughter of said Maritie Damen and wife of Gerrit Bancker proposing to return to Holland;

²⁰Early Records of the City and County of Albany, 3:271 & 274, 1:412 & 442, 2:359.

Table No. 9. SUSANNA DIRCX' RELATIVES*



both sons-in-law of Maria Dame deceased, and also for Jan van Eps her son at Schenectady, with Hendrick and Gerrit van Ness, attorneys for their father Cornelis van Nes, releasing for 5700 guilders the interest of the surviving husband in his wife's estate, partly annulling the joint 1677 will of Corn: van Ness and Maria Daeme.

That a wife kept her maiden name is important in cases where a husband was known by different "last" names. For example, Belitje Jacobs' appearance in records that call her husband variously Teunis Tomassen van Naarden, Teunis Tomassen Quick, Theunis Thomas, and Teunis Thomaszen metselaer proves that these are but four names for one man. The ancestor of the de Garmo family of Albany was the French papist who was buried there 1741 as Pieter Garmo; that he was known earlier as both Pierre Villeroy and Piere De Germeau is proved by his wife's having been entered by her maiden name, Catrina Van der Heyden, on the 1692-1704 baptismal records of their younger children at the Dutch Reformed Church of Albany.

A result of the patronymic system is that many unrelated men had the same name. Thus, there were about eleven contemporaries named Claes Janszen. Table No. 6 in the first installment summarizes the identification of one of them through his wife's name, even though in this instance she also went by various names.

A woman was named in accordance with the same system previously discussed for men: (1) She might use her maiden surname, if her family had a surname, or a name indicating her family's origin (e.g. van Rotmers in Table No. 9); (2) in the generation when a surname is becoming established, her last name would tend to vary like her brother's (see second part of Table No. 2); (3) she is most often known by her patronymic, that is, by her father's first name (e.g. Maritie Damen²⁸ means Mary daughter of a man whose first name was Adam; Belitje Jacobs means Isabel daughter of a Jacob); (4) if she had a stepfather, his first name is occasionally her patronymic (e.g. Table No. 9 shows Susanna Dircx sometimes called Susanna Jans after her stepfather).

²⁸Section I of the first installment should have emphasized that there is a second form of the patronymic—that formed by adding the ending 'en'.

Not until English influence has become pronounced does the woman use her husband's last name (see Tables No. 6, 9 and 10).

In the *early* Dutch period, indeed, the woman sometimes used her husband's first name. This seems to occur when her father was not known in America. *Table No. 9* gives²⁰ two examples:—Albert's wife was called Annitje Alberts in her remarried mother's 1642 will. Jan's wife was called Maritie Jans in their 1673 joint will, which she, however, signed Maritie Dirck. We know from her third marriage that her maiden name was Post and we presume that her father's first name was Dirck—although this was also her first husband's first name. For the genealogist, this early practice tends to obscure the emigrant women's parentage.

In considering naming, I suggest that the present-day American visualize the Dutch woman as belonging to a man (known best by his first name), whether he be her father, stepfather, or husband. However, the Dutch female of that period had property rights and a separate legal identity from husband or father, her rights being better protected than those of her English female contemporary.²¹

Occasionally the Dutch used their mother's name as an alias or took the mother's name rather than the father's, especially if the mother had an established surname and the father did not. Although this was not the custom in America, it is the origin of some emigrants' surnames. For example, the emigrant Schuyler brothers were born in Amsterdam as children of Pieter Tjerks from Emden and of Geertruyt Philips van Schuylder his wife.²² The Quackenbush family progenitor who signed "Pieter Bont otherwise called Quackenbosch"²³ in 1686/7 may be an instance of a maternal alias.

VII. GODPARENTS OR SPONSORS

The records of the Dutch Reformed churches in America are of primary importance in genealogical work, because of two old customs found therein well into

the eighteenth century, namely, continued appearance of the woman's maiden name and the practice of having close relatives act as godparents.

Table No. 10 lists and identifies the godparents of the children of Anthony Rutgers of New York City, whose family group appears graphically in *Table No. 11*. Although Dutch government had ended about half a century earlier, not so the Dutch customs. *Table No. 10* shows that *every one* of this family's godparents (on the baptismal records of the Dutch Reformed Church of N. Y. C.) was a close relative of these children. Godparents consequently, become the chief means by which a genealogist constructs several generations of a family, a matter of special importance in the early period when last names were changing, as the godparents' names often indicate the last names used by preceding generations.

It is also of help to know that there is a tendency (not shown in *Table No. 10*) for the godparents of successive children to be chosen alternately from each side of the family.

VIII. FIRST NAMES OF CHILDREN

Children were almost invariably named²⁴ for relatives, and it was customary to name the eldest two boys and the eldest two girls after their four grandparents.

There were other customs, irregularly kept but worthy of note for the help they often afford the genealogist: (1) Strong tendency to name the first child for a paternal grandparent; (2) some tendency to name the first child, if a boy, for the wife's first husband (if any); (3) tendency to alternate, taking one child's name from the father's side of the family, the next child's name from the mother's side, the following child's name from the father's side, and so on; and (4) tendency to repeat, giving the name of a child that died (and there was large infant mortality) to the next child born of the appropriate sex. The practice of repeating is

²⁰Based on Jacobus, in *The American Genealogist*, 24:231-35; Early Records of Albany, 3:326.

²¹The *Washington Ancestry*, Hoppin, III:192-93; Hoffman in *The American Genealogist*, 29:25.

²²NYGB Record, 69:19-22, 67:246, and *The American Genealogist*, 29:27. The Dutch Settlers Society of Albany Yearbook 1930-31, VI:23-24.

²⁴First names included the more important Biblical names from both the Old and New Testaments, such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Rachel and Sara, Matthew (Matthys), Luke (Lucas), John (Jan), James (Jacobus), Mary (Maria, Maritie), and Magdalene. They seldom included two groups of names so popular in New England, viz. minor Old Testament characters such as Hezekiah and Mephibosheth and moral characteristics such as Wrestling and Prudence.

Table No. 10. GODPARENTS OF ANTHONY RUTGERS' CHILDREN

child	bap- tized	godparents as given on this record	godparent's relation to the child
<i>by 1st wife:</i>			
Harmanus	1699	Harmen Rutgers Johannes Hooglant and his wife Anna Duyking	paternal grandfather maternal grandmother's 2nd husband and said maternal grandmother
Petrus	1701	Evert Van de Water Catharina Rutgers*	maternal uncle paternal grandmother*
Catharyna	1702	Harmanus Rutgers Catharyna Rutgers*	paternal grandfather paternal grandmother*
Anneke	1704	Harmanus Rutgers antie Duyking	paternal uncle maternal grandmother
Catharina	1705	Johannis Hooglant Catharina Provoost	maternal grandmother's 2nd husband wife of maternal uncle (Evert van de Water)
Anthony	1707	Gerret Duyking Catharina Meyer wife of Harmanus Rutgers	maternal great-uncle wife of paternal uncle
Catharina	1708	David Schuyler Catharina Rutgers*	husband of paternal aunt (Elsie) paternal grandmother*
Anthony	1711	Gerret Duyking Elsje Schuyler*	maternal great-uncle paternal aunt*
Maria	1712	Harmanus Rutgers Marytje Singelaar*	paternal uncle maternal great-aunt (nee Duyking)*
<i>by 2nd wife:</i>			
Anthony	1717	Gert Roos twin Catharine Rutgers, widow*	maternal uncle (Gerret) paternal grandmother*
Harmanus	1717	Harmanus Rutgers and twin Catharina, his wife	paternal uncle and paternal uncle's wife
Cornelia	1718	Gerret Roos Aaltje Provoost,* his sister	maternal uncle maternal aunt*
Elsje	1720	Petrus Rutgers Elsje Schuyler,* widow of David Schuyler	half-brother (Petrus) paternal aunt*
Maria	1722	Charles Crook and Anneke Rutgers, his wife	husband of half-sister and said half-sister.
Aletta	1724	Petrus Rutgers and Helena Hoogland, his wife	half-brother and half-brother's wife.

*Listed by her married name in the English fashion.

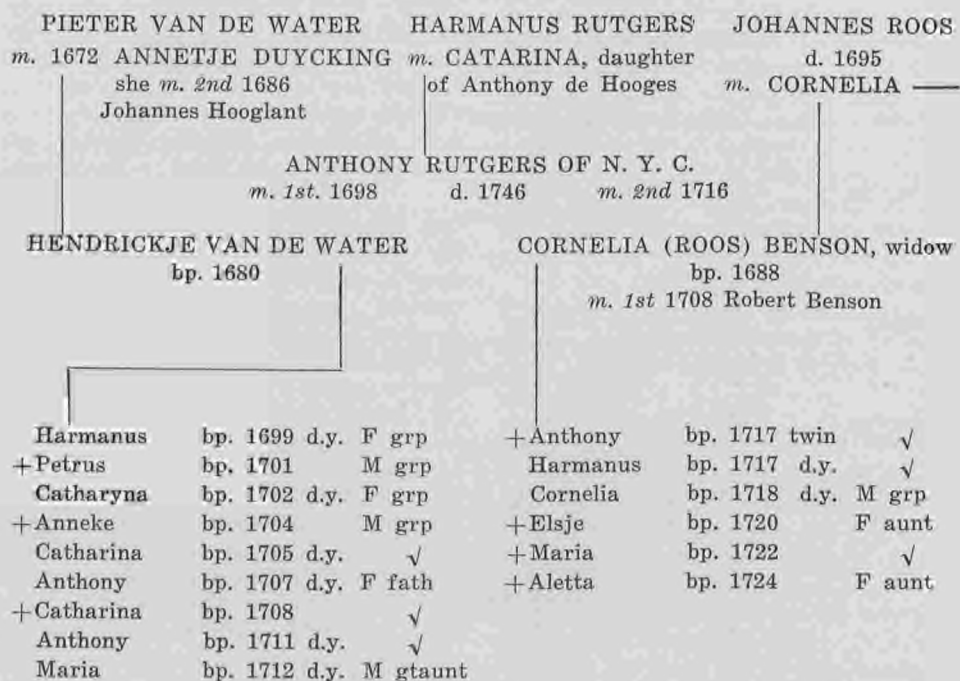
often given precedence over naming the child for a grandparent not yet so honored. While there are countless exceptions to the practice of alternating, often the children's names are about half from each side of the family.

These customs and tendencies help greatly in constructing several generations of a family. For instance, the genealogist

—if church records are lacking or scanty—can turn to a man's will and hope to find in his children's names the first names of many of their grandparents. Moreover, to the expert, certain first names are recognizable as running primarily or strongly in certain families and if such be the case, it is worthwhile looking for an intermarriage.

Table No. 11. RUTGERS—FAMILY GROUP

In the Eighteenth Century



The children's names in Table No. 11 present a perfect example of the naming customs just mentioned, far more perfect than will usually be found, but excellent as an illustration because the only deviation is that the group by the second wife did not contain enough boys to name one after her father. Popular first names running through all branches of the Rutgers family are Anthony and Harmanus. The symbols on the table are: F = named

for father's side; M = named for mother's side; grp. = grandparent's name; d.y. = died young ✓ = first name repeated, given previously to an earlier child who died young; + = grew up and had issue. These seven children who grew up are those named in their father's will dated 1746, and it is to be noted that partly because three are name repeaters, their names include three of the six grandparents' names.

IX. THE DIMINUTIVE

There are three kinds of diminutive: the shortened name, the variant indicating small size, and the endearing term, the two latter usually being the same in form though not in meaning.

The shortened name was used by the Dutch for both sexes. Examples for males are: Thys for Matthys, Claes for Nicolaes (hence our Santa Claus), Nys for Denys, Cobus for Jacobus, Jaap for Jacob, and

Bartel or Mees or Meus for Bartelmeus.

Patronymics were often made from the short, as well as the full, form of the name (see *Rutsen vs. Rutgers* in Table No. 5). We have the Tysen family of Staten Island descending from Thys Barentsen van Leerdam, whereas some other Thys probably sired one of the Tice families of New Jersey (the Dutch 'th' is silent and the 'n' patronymic ending is scarcely pronounced).

The true diminutive is popular in many languages, its basic form being a typical ending: in English, 'y' or 'ie' as in Bobby and Nellie; in French, 'ette' as in Blanch-

ette; in Dutch, 'tje' or 'je' (ye) or occasionally 'ken'. Dutch examples are: Maritje for Maria (*i.e.*, Mary or occasionally Martha), Grietje for Margriet, Giertje for Geartruy, Tryntje for Catrina, Hendrickje (Henrietta or Harriet), and Femmetje (Phoebe).

The diminutive was extensively used by the Dutch for girls' names. Sometimes the only feminine version of a name was comprised by adding 'je' to the male name, *e.g.*, Dirckje (see below).

The preference for dropping the first syllable when forming a diminutive adds to the difficulties of using an index.

X. DUTCH-ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS OF FIRST NAMES

Most but not all Dutch first names have English equivalents, and various lists of equivalents have been compiled.³⁰ The genealogist is cautioned, however, not to decide on a particular equivalent ahead of time, but to wait until the records are searched for that person and then let the records speak for themselves. Too many variables are involved—mainly the difference in Dutch, English, and French pronunciation of various letters, the phonetic spelling of that time, similar-sounding names of different word groups in the other language, the national origin and lingual education of the clerk.

The following examples demonstrate the need for caution:

(1) Neeltje Swem appears on the Staten Island census of about 1703 as Elener Swan. Neeltje is the feminine form of Cornelius and hence the English equivalent is Cornelia, but it looks and sounds like Nellie, the English diminutive for Eleanor, hence this version.

(2) Dirckje Hagewout of Staten Island was married 1764 as Dorcas Haughewout, a natural anglicization,³¹ as the names are somewhat similar in appearance and pronunciation, but Dirckje is actually the feminine form of Dirck or Derrick (in English, Richard or Theodore) and usually becomes Dorothy in English.

(3) Geertruyd Hagewout, who married

1761, appears on records as Heirtry and Charity.³² The English equivalent is Gertrude, but pronounced by the Dutch it had quite a different sound, since their 'g' has no equivalent, sounding somewhat like an 'h' or a 'k' scraped across the back of the throat, while the end of the name is scarcely pronounced, hence the scribes' versions in their attempt to put down what they heard.

(4) Styntje Strawn, baptized 1724/5 at Readington, N. J., married into a Quaker family and was entered on Richland Minutes as Staunchy, thus starting a legend that she was of staunch and stocky build. The English clerks did their best by ear with the unfamiliar name, but actually Styntje is the Dutch diminutive for Christina.

(5) Annatje Van Varick was married 1701 in the Dutch Church of N.Y.C. Her husband's will and the Province's license give her as Johanna Varick.³³ These and Hannah are sometimes interchangeable first names, though there are also instances in which two sisters bore different forms of these names.

(6) Helena Stoothoff of Long Island, born about 1646-49, was sometimes called by her patronymic Heiltje Elbertse, and in a 1706/7 deed was referred to in completely anglicized fashion as mother Elenor Willett deceased.³⁴ It might be mentioned here that Lena was the favored short form of both Magdalena and Helena,

³⁰Pronunciation help is given with a short list of equivalents in *Genealogy of the Doremus Family*, Wm. Nelson, 1897, pp. 202-04.

³¹Haughwout, in *NYGB Record*, 68:131.

³²R. F. Bailey, in *NYGB Record*, 80:85 and 154.

so sometimes these two names become interchangeable.

(7) Jochem is Joachim, but on occasion the spelling is altered to approximate the Dutch pronunciation: Yoakum or Yokum.

In the Dutch period, the Dutch records

show the same process in reverse, first names of the English and French being translated or transformed into Dutch equivalents or approximations, as will be discussed in the following sections on last names.

XI. TRANSLATION OF THE FOREIGN NAME: DUTCH, ENGLISH, FRENCH

In the seventeenth century, it was the custom of Dutch magistrates and scribes to translate foreign names into what they believed to be equivalent Dutch names and so enter them on the court records or other series of records kept in that language. We find the same custom practiced by the English for their records kept in English and by European universities for their records kept in Latin.³³ Hence on the Dutch records of New Netherland we find, for instance, the Englishman Charles Bridges usually entered as Carel van Brugge or Verbruggen.

For almost a century after Dutch Government ended in America, the conservative Dutch settlers continued to talk Dutch, to hear their sermons in Dutch, and to write the records of their Dutch Reformed churches in the Dutch language. Hence we continue to find occasional translation of names on these records. Thus, at the 1673 baptism of a daughter, William Churchill's name is entered as Willem Kerck.³⁴

The identity and parentage of Philip Lyon³⁵ are pieced together through the following marriage records of his bride and widow in the Dutch Reformed Church of N.Y.C.: 1668 Philip Johns, j.m. Van London in Engelant and Marritje Hay, j.d. Van New Jorck; 1681 Joost Adriaensen Molenaer, Wdr Van Lysbeth Croing, and Marritje Heys Wede Van Philip Leiuw, woonende tot New Yorke. Since Lieuw is Dutch for Lion, her first husband is considered to have been an Englishman, Philip Lyon, born in London as son of John Lyon.

Similarly for French names. The wife of Nicholas Dupue appears on the 1667-1675 baptismal records of her children in the Dutch church of N.Y.C. as: Catharina Reynards, Catalina Duvois, Catharina de Vos, and Catharina Reynardt. Reynard is the French and Vos is the Dutch for the English word Fox.

Rosignol is the French and Nagtegaal is the Dutch for the English word Nightingale. In the records of the Dutch churches of N.Y.C. and Brooklyn, are baptisms 1658-1669 of five children of Marcus Soisson or du Soison with his wife entered as Lysbeth Rosiljel and Elisabeth Rosiljon and as Lysbet Nagtegaal and Nachtegaels, while the 1661 church membership calls her Lysbeth Rossillon from Leiden.

Under the English, the Dutch family of Kuyper became by translation Cooper (see Table No. 6). Cornelis Van Langevelt, father and son, were both married as such in the Dutch Reformed Church of N.Y.C. in 1658 and 1680 respectively, but on the various English records of New Jersey, the latter has become Cornelius Longfield.³⁶ This is the translation of Langevelt. His stepfather Thomas Laurenszen Poppinga dropped his surname and anglicized his patronymic, becoming Thomas Lawrence of New York, ancestor of Thomas Lawrence of Philadelphia, the Councillor.³⁷ Laurens Andriessen Van Buskirk did not always use his surname; on a New Jersey quit-rent list of the English Proprietors, he appears as Lawrence Anderson,³⁷ the translation of his patronymic entirely hiding his nationality.

However, it was not always possible to translate the foreign name.

³³Leyden Documents relating to the Pilgrim Fathers, ed. Plooi & Harris, Leyden, 1920, p. ix; The Manor of Fordham and its Founder, Harry C. W. Melick, 1950, p. 32. For Latin examples, see my first installment, Section III.

³⁴The American Genealogist, 27:105.

³⁵Early Settlers of Bushwick, Long Island, Andrew J. Provocost, Jr., MS, 1:3.

³⁶Randolph, in NYGB Record, 59:306-12, 317.

³⁷Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, N. S., 15:236.

XII. ALTERATION OF THE FOREIGN NAME: DUTCH, ENGLISH, FRENCH

If the foreign name was difficult to translate, the seventeenth century Dutch magistrate or scribe usually entered a phonetic approximation. Such might take the form of a Dutch name similar in sound to the foreign name, but often quite different in meaning; or the foreign name might merely be spelled phonetically by translating the sound of the name into letters as the Dutch pronounced their letters. We must remember that it was both the Dutch and English practice at that time to enter the entire record, including people's names, in the one language.³⁹

Such alterations of a foreign name were additionally corrupted, temporarily or permanently, by other factors present under English rule in America: Orthographic laxity and tendency to phonetic spelling in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; inability of many early settlers, especially of the second or third generation, to read or write; continuance of spoken Dutch but little or no education in writing Dutch, leading to corruption of the ancestral language, and yet persistence in writing English as it would be pronounced in Dutch; and lack of understanding of the Dutch language by English officials.

Close approximations by the Dutch include the French girl Adrienne Cuvellier as Ariaentje Cuvilje,⁴⁰ the Scotchman Alexander Glen (son of Leonard) who emigrated 1639 as Sander Leenaerts⁴¹ and who later appears on records as Sander Leendertsen Glen; and the Englishman George Woolsey who is entered on the 1647 marriage register as Jarge Woltzen.

Close approximations by the English include the Belgian Jacob Melyn as Malain and the continental European John Winans as Wynams on a 1670 quit-rent list of the English Proprietors of New Jersey.⁴² The English censustaker on Staten Island probably thought that the strange sur-

name Swem was intended for the familiar word Swan, and he so entered it in 1703. The Hagewout family became Haughwout (English spelling of the Dutch pronunciation). The van Doesburg family from Doesburg in Holland settled in the English neighborhood of Hempstead, Long Island; they could not write and, because the Dutch 'oe' is pronounced like the English 'u' in 'pull' while the final 'g' is merely a breath, the name became established in different branches as Dusenberre, Dusenberry, Dusenbery, and Dusenbury.

Pronunciation is the same for the English Cole families and the Dutch Cool families. The English Lake family retained its English pronunciation by being rendered Leek in Dutch records.

Both nations had trouble with the name of John Archer, who was born in Holland of English descent. In the Dutch period, he signed with what he considered the Dutch form of his name: Jan arcer. The closest the Dutch court of New Amsterdam could get to his surname was one of their own patronymics, Aarsen (the true meaning of which is "son of Arthur") or on land records, the phonetic spelling Aertsier (the Dutch 'aa' and 'ae' are pronounced like the English 'ah' and 'aw'; the Dutch 'ts' was the nearest sound they had to the English 'ch'). The Dutch nick-named him Coopal, i.e. buy all, from which we gather he had an acquisitive nature. In the same town court in the English regime and on the English records of the town court of Oostdrop (Westchester, N. Y.) 1656-1662, he is usually entered as John Orchard (again phonetic) but later records of the English Governor's Council correctly call him John Archer (as he then spelled it), sometimes adding his alias of Coopal.

Happily for the genealogist, the Dutch propensity for various identifying terms as "last" names of a person includes instances of combining them in one record, thereby identifying them for us as one person.⁴³ Thus the above John Archer is

³⁹Herbert F. Severasmith, *Colonial Families of Long Island, New York and Connecticut*, pp. 547-53 & forthcoming addenda.

⁴⁰The American Genealogist, 29:75.

⁴¹Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, N. S., 15:235. Even such a prominent personage as Stuyvesant was miscalled "Stevensant" by the Deputy Governor of New Haven in 1652, and "Lord Stephenson" by the General Assembly of Connecticut in 1663. (Documents rel. Colonial History of the State of N. Y., 14:184; Public Records of Connecticut, 1:405).

⁴²Such names may be strung together or connected by terms such as 'commonly called' and 'alias' ('gezegt'). In Dutch America the alias was customarily a nickname; but see Paul G. Burton in NYGB Record, 67:246, who says the double name in Holland, Belgium and France arises from a nickname or an allied family's name or a translation of the first surname into a second language.

entered as: "Jan Aarsen or Jan Coopal"; "Jan Arcet alias Jan Coopal"; "Jan Aarsen Nieuw-hof or Jan Arcer called Jan Koopal the younger"; "Jan Artisert, nieusorisch, van Amsterdam"; "Jan Aarsen of Nieuwhoff, commonly called Jan Coopal"—the last-listed being on a mortgage which he signed "Jan Arcer."⁴²

Surprisingly, the Irish sounding name Fitzgerald changed into Fitzcharles under the impact of Dutch pronunciation in the mid-1700's: Records of the Dutch Reformed Church of Kinderhook, N. Y., show John Fitzgerald also as Fitscherler, while his daughter Margarit, baptized 1727, appears at her children's baptisms as Vergels, Vergerls, Fitzgerald, Mercherles, Fitzcharles, and Fitzsherrels.

The Frenchman Leonard LeRoy, baptized 1674 at Quebec as a Catholic, was married in the Dutch Reformed Church at Kingston, N. Y., in 1703, as Jonas Larroy. He lived near Poughkeepsie, Albany, and Schoharie, N. Y.; most New York records give his name as Jonar Larway or Jonas Laraway.⁴³ Seemingly the French pronunciation of the first name was corrupted by the Dutch, and of the second name by the English! It was perpetuated as the Laraway family.

The French Huguenot emigrant who signed Marc du Sausoy as witness to a 1655 deed appears on the Dutch church records here as Marcus Soisson or du Soison. But the family's name was soon corrupted to Dusochoy and du Secoy, and it became established on Staten Island in the anglicized version, Dissowsay.

The Van Tyne or Vantine family of central New Jersey has a misleadingly Dutch connotation since the family is of French origin. Charles Ffontaine of Bushwick, Long Island, drew his will 1687;⁴⁴ he had been among the first French settlers of that village in 1661; unable to sign his name, it usually appears on records in the on that town's 1687 oath of allegiance and 1698 census. Two of them settled in New Dutch version Carel or Charel Fonteyn,⁴⁵ but his three sons are listed as Fontaine on that town's 1687 oath of allegiance and

1698 census. Two of them settled in New Brunswick, N. J., and the membership records of the Dutch church there show the gradual change of the family's name during the eighteenth century: Fontyn (1717), Vanteyn (1752), Van Tyn, Vantine, and Van Time (1794).

The Seeley family of upstate New York has a misleading English connotation, as the family is of French origin. David Usilié emigrated from Calais on the ship "*Gilded Otter*" in 1660 with a nursing child, presumably the Pieter Uzie from Manheim who married, 1686, in the Dutch Reformed Church of N.Y.C. The family lived in Dutch neighborhoods, and attended the Dutch churches of Brooklyn, Albany, Kingston, Schoharie, etc. The emigrant signed with what he considered the Dutch form of his name: Pieter Uzielle; wills of the Schoharie group show the further change in name: Useely (1746/7), U. Ziellie (1795), Zielie (1808), and Seeley (1862).

All of this is not meant to imply that the Dutch mistreated only the foreign name. Their own names also suffered in that era of general orthographic laxity and of phonetic spelling. No thorough piece of research can be done through indexes; for instance, the Kinderhook, N. Y., family of Hoes appears on the records also as Goes for the logical reason that these two words are pronounced the same in Dutch.

The double transformation of the Mackelyck—Woglom family's name is summarized in *Table No. 12*. The family was first known in America by the nickname Soo gemakelyck (meaning "so easy going" or maybe "a person who can be imposed upon").⁴⁶ This became a surname as Mackelyck, only to be abandoned in favor of the family's place of origin, van Woggelum, a village near Alkmaar in North Holland.⁴⁶ This group must not be confused with a group from Alkmaar using the same first name and patronymic.

⁴²Called to my attention and translated by Mr. Hoffman, but the two Pieter Adriaensen families and the table are my responsibility. For the Mackelyck family, see especially: *The Holland Society Yearbook*, 1900, p. 71; 1898, p. 119; 1897, pp. 141-42; *Early Records of Albany*, 3:35; *Court Minutes of Port Orange*, 1:45, 2:268; *Court Minutes of Albany*, 2:335, 3:122; *NYGB Record*, 48:112 and 367.

⁴³Melick, *op. cit.*, pp. 23-36, 55-57.

⁴⁴Alfred LeRoy Becker, in *NYGB Record*, 64:44.

⁴⁵Documents rel. Colonial History of the State of N. Y., 14:524; *NYGB Record*, 47:166.

mic.⁴⁶ The Van Woggelum family dropped the "van" and perpetuated the name on Staten Island as Woglom. One branch

is believed to have used the form Wakely, which would seem an English corruption of the Dutch pronunciation.

Table No. 12. MACKELYCK—WOGLOM FAMILY
of Albany and Staten Island

ANNETIE PIETERS from Holstein d. 1669
called grandmother of Jan Pieterszen in his 1664 marriage record
called wife of B.J.B. and mother of Pieter Aryaense in 1654 schepen record

m. 1st ADRIAEN *m. 2nd JACQUES KINNEKOM* *m. 3rd 1652 BARENT JANSEN BAL*
of Long Island, d. c1660

PIETER ADRIAENSEN, innkeeper of Albany, N. Y.
Pieter Adriaensz commonly called Gemackelyck—1652 court minute
"Pieter Adriaensen"
—signature on 1660 court minute
"Pieter Adraensen Soogemacklick"
—signature on power of attorney
Pr. van Waggelen & his wife
—witnesses in 1678 court case
Pieter Adriaense van Wugelum
—1681 court minute

JAN PIETERSEN MACKELYCK of Brooklyn and Staten Island
born Amsterdam

m. 1st Brooklyn 1664
STYNTJE JANS from Ootmarsen.
With her, he is on church
records 1664-1681 as:
Jan, Pietersz
Jan Mackelyck
Jan Pietersen Mackelyck
Jan Pietersz Makkellie

m. 2nd Brooklyn 1685 HENDRIKA STROCKELS,
widow of Michiel Hamel.
With her, he is on Kings Co. land
records 1687-1698 & marriage as:
Jan Pietersen Mackelyck—sig: "Jan Pietersen"
John Peterse Maklick—sig: "John Wolghem"
and sponsors on Staten Island church, as:
Jan Pieterszen Woggelom in 1696
will 1717 of John Wooglam

JOHN WOGLOM, Jr., will 1712
m. by 1701 Blandina — ADRIAN or ARY WOGLOM or VAN WOGGELUM
bp. 1681. *m. Bergen 1715 Celeytje Preyer*

In the latter eighteenth century even the conservative Dutch were influenced by English education and neighbours sufficiently to spell their own names sometimes according to English rules for their Dutch

⁴⁶Adriaen Pieterszen from Alkmaar married 1643 Elsie Jans and had a son Pieter Adriaensen, mentioned in a 1658 deposition (ERA 4:69) as a youngster, the son of the wife of Hendrick Jochemsen; the latter's wife is termed Elsie Jans late widow of Adriaen Pietersen from Alkmaar and guardian of their minor children on a 1664 Orphanmaster record. This family lived in New Amsterdam and Albany.

pronunciation. Thus, a boy baptized in the Dutch Reformed Church of Six Mile Run, N. J., as Ouke Van Aersdalen (Auke, the earlier version, had the same pronunciation) removed to the English region now Mercer Co., N. J., where in 1796-1807 he signed Oakey Vannosdol to records of his father's estate (Trenton probate files; Middlesex Co. deeds).

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