

‘THEY WON’T BELIEVE ME ANYWAY’

**Hoeven's transatlantic
emigrants (1867-1927)**



The Dutch original of this book has been translated with the help of 15 teachers of Anglia Network NL, who did this for free.

ENGLISH EDUCATION GROUP PARTNERS IN ENGLISH

English
Academy
Group Europe



In return, they ask for a donation for their volunteer projects around the world. Please donate to help more children to learn better English and support the English for Kids Foundation.



www.efkf.org

We want to give children “a voice”

Stichting English For Kids Foundation
IBAN: NL43INGB0005328523 BIC: INGBNL2A

Heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven
Yearbook no. 35 2019

Editors,
A.W.J.M. Bastiaansen
C.M.M. van Caulil (final editing)
P.C. Lauwerijssen
A.J.G.M. van der Logt
M.A.M. Voermans
A.A.M. Wouters

Heemkundekring
De Honderd Hoeven

‘THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME ANYWAY’

**Hoeven's transatlantic
emigrants (1867-1927)**

by

Piet Lauwerijssen



Cover illustration:

Emigrants arriving on Ellis Island, New York.

(Photo collection heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven)

COLOFON

Layout en design

Ronald Tjassens Keiser
STUDI*O* iBiZZ
Etten-Leur

Translators

15 teachers of Anglia Network NL

Final translator

Monique Tjassens Keiser
English teacher
Emmeloord

Edition

Heemkundekring
De Honderd Hoeven
Secr. Ericalaan 56
4741 EL Hoeven
Phone +31-165-503566
secretariaat@honderdhoeven.nl
www.honderdhoeven.nl

I.S.B.N.

978-90-71739-33-0



CONTENTS

FOREWORD	7
INTRODUCTION	9
EMIGRATION POLICY OF THE NETHERLANDS	13
EMIGRATING TO THE UNITED STATES	15
Hoeven's emigrants to the United States	16
A first introduction	16
Two sisters	18
Two fortune hunters	19
Harrison, Lincoln County, Wisconsin	27
Other destinations	90
EMIGRATING TO CANADA	110
Hoeven's emigrants to Canada	121
A first introduction	121
Strathmore, Alberta	122
New Westminster, British Columbia	148
Strathmore again	160
An unusual emigrant	203
EPILOG	206
ATTACHMENTS	207
SOURCES AND LITERATURE	222



This edition has been made possible
by a financial contribution
of The Mastboom Brosens Foundation,
for which we express our special thanks.

FOREWORD

As noted on the website it is the aim of Heemkundekring De Hondert Hoeven, to “historically describe and preserve valuable remains from the past and promote the interest in one’s own region, people and customs”. The publication of a yearbook is one of the means to achieve this goal, and this year we have succeeded again. In front of you is Yearbook 35 (2019) with an intriguing title “They won’t believe me anyway”.

Editor Piet Lauwerijssen has been researching the Hoeveners, keeping in mind the history of his own family, who left their municipality to build a new and hopefully better life on the other side of the Atlantic. During that investigation he discovered that as early as 1867 two young women originally from Hoeven, who lived in Zevenbergen, had made the crossing. Between 1908 and 1927, over a period of 20 years, 106 people from Hoeven between the age of a few months to 55 years left Antwerp or Rotterdam for the United States and Canada. The emigrants had a predominantly agricultural background. In the middle and west of both countries large areas were wild. In Canada, the prairies were extremely suitable for agriculture, and in Wisconsin in America, land was set aside after clearing forests. However, there were not enough experts in these countries to properly exploit the land. Canada pursued an active policy of attracting farmers and farmworkers to solve this problem. In the early years, a priest from Langeweg played a crucial role in encouraging (West)-Brabant candidates to start Canadian farms. Certainly, in the first years, the emigrants had a tough life, as stated in their biographies. Not everyone was able to achieve what they had hoped for and therefore returned to the Netherlands after a shorter or longer period of time. A few could no longer settle in the Netherlands and emigrated for a second time. Many emigrants managed to build flourishing businesses, stayed permanently in their new home country and applied for citizenship, which they also received after completing the necessary procedures. What will undoubtedly have contributed to these personal successes is the fact that in the beginning the Hoeveners started living together. In Harrison (Wisconsin, America) and even in the specially founded Akenstad colony near Strathmore (Alberta, Canada) this was the case. They could support and help each other at work, with the language and so on. From these two places the immigrants and their descendants journeyed along the entire North American continent. The biographies are not limited to the emigrants themselves. The well-being of their offspring has also been described to a greater or lesser extent. During his

research in the Netherlands Piet was limited by the latest developments in the field of privacy. Since this year European legislation requires every member state of the European Union to respect and safeguard the privacy of every resident. Not all data can be published as per usual. This has led to the West-Brabants Archief having to delete the Hoeven population records from 1920 up to the present from the website. The research in America and Canada was limited because of the distance and the different administrative methods regarding the population. Therefore, the necessary information has not always been found. Piet was supported in his research by volunteers of the local historical society who have advised the authors of their articles for years. Editorial member Alwin Bastiaansen found information on dozens of sources on the internet. Descendants of immigrants and Dutch relatives have also contributed. We thank everyone for their contributions. The editorial team has been expanded in the person of Adrie van der Logt. We hope to be able to include the results of his interest in the history of the former municipality of Hoeven in the yearbooks to come.

The editors, June 2019

As a thank you for the great cooperation on this yearbook by various descendants of emigrants from Hoeven, a number of copies were sent to them. There is a great deal of interest in this, but not everyone is sufficiently proficient in Dutch to be able to read the yearbook. That is why Heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven has decided to publish a free English-language digital version on the website, which can be downloaded for free. The translation was provided free of charge by 15 teachers from the Anglia Network NL. Anglia Network also supports the English for Kids foundation. To continue the work of the foundation, a donation per download is appreciated. In the final editing of the English version, the editors were able to use the knowledge of the English teacher Monique Tjassens Keiser.

The editors, December 2019

Alwin Bastiaansen
Cees van Caulil
Piet Lauwerijssen
Adrie van der Logt
Rieni Voermans
Ton Wouters

INTRODUCTION

The reason

The reason I started an investigation into Hoeven emigrants was because of a holiday to Western Canada in 2013. I knew from my family tree research of the Lauwerijssen family from Hoeven, that Cornelis Lauwerijssen and his family had migrated to Strathmore in the Calgary area in Canada in 1912. In 2012 I contacted Don Lauweryssen in Calgary via social media. He turned out to be a descendant of Cornelis Lauwerijssen indeed. He invited me and my wife to visit Strathmore and Calgary. Their welcome was of the warmest kind and we were shown around Strathmore and the surrounding area with enthusiasm. It soon became apparent that more families from West-Brabant had settled in this region. As a farewell gift I received a book entitled *Strathmore, the village that moved*. In this book, written around 1980, immigrants and their descendants describe how the area was formed and how it further developed. You can also read about different families and how they experienced their emigration to the other side of the Atlantic. My curiosity was aroused.

Who left Hoeven for Strathmore and why specifically this place? Why did they emigrate? Were there other places that people from Hoeven went to? How did they experience the emigration, was it a success or a disappointment?

Sources and limitations of the research

I started my research by looking in the West-Brabants Archief at the registration of people who had left Hoeven. These records were kept between 1860 and 1934. In addition to everyone who moved to surrounding places in West-Brabant, I also found a few people and families who left for America or Canada. It soon became clear that these registers were incomplete, because the population registers also found emigrants who were not recorded in the emigration records. People who were born in Hoeven, but had left from a different place, were of course neither in these emigration records, nor in the population register. A third good source were the passenger lists of the shipping companies, which had transported the emigrants across the Atlantic. On these lists was noted where the emigrants came from and where they were going. Unfortunately, not all passenger lists were preserved and/or legible. Fortunately, a lot of the archive has been preserved on the other side of the ocean via www.ancestry.com where it is possible to search by name, year of

birth and place of residence. This includes lists of censuses that were held every ten years, birth, marriage and death certificates, applications for naturalization, newspaper articles and so-called draft registration cards.

It is partly thanks to these sources that many emigrants from Hoeven have been traced. However, there is no guarantee that all emigrated people from

Draft registration cards

The US was involved in the First World War from April 6, 1917. Between 1917 and 1918, approximately 24 million men, born between September 11, 1872 and September 12, 1900, were registered to serve in the US Army. In addition to personal data such as height, weight, date of birth and physical condition, their profession and where they worked were recorded. Certainly not all registered people were called up for actual service. After the end of the First World War, this registration was interrupted and resumed in 1942 for the same reason.

Hoeven have been found. Nevertheless, there were enough to make a contribution to the yearbook of Heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven. This is the result.

In order to prevent this contribution to develop indefinitely, it was decided to limit it to the period in which the Hoeven emigrants were recorded between 1860 and 1934. This last year is also relevant as a result of recent government measures in the context of the protection of personal privacy. The Algemene Verordening Gegevensbescherming (General Data Protection Act), which came into force on May 25, 2018, means that West-Brabant population registers younger than 1920 cannot be accessed publicly or via the website.

This contribution is limited to emigrants to the US and/or Canada. Emigrants within Europe and to other parts of the world have therefore not been taken into consideration.

When do you 'come from Hoeven'

Someone is a Hoevenner when he or she was born and/or grew up in the former municipality of Hoeven including Bosschenhoofd and parts of current Rucphen. This is the same definition that has been chosen for yearbooks 32 and 33. Those who lived in the eastern part of the parish Hoeven are included, which at that time still belonged to the municipality of Etten-Leur. For practical reasons residents of the Kapelstraat in Oudenbosch were also included, because from there a so-called chain migration (more about that

later) to Harrison, Wisconsin, US arose. Many Hoeven emigrants were part of this chain. Emigrants from other places but related by marriage to Hoeven are of course also incorporated. Students from the Bovendonk seminar who were later sent as priests were not involved in this study.

The life stories

Each emigrant is first described by the family they came from in order to establish their origins and social background. And then when and how people left and finally how their lives in the US and/or Canada continued.

Every life story begins with the name of the emigrant and his or her year of birth and death. The first name is always given as noted in the birth register. The first name is also used when describing the period the people still lived in the Netherlands. When these immigrants arrived in the US or Canada, their first name changed in many cases, including in official documents. Right from the beginning this 'new' name is shown in brackets next to the official birth name and is also used in the life description in the US or Canada.

Addresses in the Netherlands mentioned in the biographies are their current addresses (2019). These did not yet exist in the described time period but have been converted from the original addresses.

In the description of the places where the immigrants landed, these addresses are initially mentioned in full, so including the county it is situated in as well as the state. The same place name often occurs in multiple counties within a state. In the further text, only the place name is used.

Attachments

The attachments include an alphabetical list of all emigrants involved in this study, stating the page in which the emigrant in question is described. These are not only Hoeveners but also traveling emigrants from elsewhere, spouses of bachelors who were married in the US or Canada or family of Hoeveners from other places. The Hoeveners are shown in bold.

In addition, a family tree of some of the Hoeven emigrants is included in the attachments.



The families of Peter and Matthijs Schoone from Fijnaart, Adriana Kalis and the family of Gerardus Roozen arrive on Ellis Island in New York on May 6, 1915. A party of 25 people. Back row on the right: Peter Schoone, second from the right: Matthijs Schoone, fourth from the right: Gerardus Roozen and fifth from the right: Adriana Kalis with Wilhelmus Roozen (5 months old) in her arms. Far left Lawrence Schoone (18 years) and fourth from left Peter Schoone (20 years).
(Photo collection G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin)

EMIGRATION POLICY OF THE NETHERLANDS

Government and church support

In the Netherlands, emigrants were not supported by the national government prior to 1923. The Catholic Church was not in favour of emigration because both in the US and Canada there were too few or no centres for spiritual care. Some monastic orders did have branches in the US, in order to provide some needs. In 1893, the Norbertines of the Abbey of Berne in Heeswijk settled in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Many Belgian settlers were already living there at the time. The Crosiers of the St. Agatha Monastery in Cuyk settled in Butler and Onamia in Minnesota in 1910. The Protestant congregations did provide spiritual support in the settlement areas. This may have been a reason that the first West-Brabant immigrants mainly came from municipalities with a predominantly Protestant population.

Noord-Brabant emigrants

Emigration to the US got going for Noord-Brabant after 1845. Before that time, only a few individuals left. The municipalities from which emigrants left between 1820 and 1880 were mainly from Oost-Brabant. In West-Brabant, the municipalities of Klundert and Zevenbergen had very high emigration numbers. In that period of sixty years, 104 emigrants left from Klundert and 85 from Zevenbergen, of which no less than 69 people in 1867, 1868 and 1869. These were mainly farmers from Protestant Klundert. Because the population of Zevenbergen was approximately 80 percent Catholic their share was larger than in Klundert. It is also noticeable that more nonfarmers, such as artisans and workers, left from Zevenbergen. Most of them went to Detroit in Michigan where many Flemish people already lived. Also in the period from 1880 to 1904 the West-Brabant municipalities were far behind Oost-Brabant in terms of departing emigrants. Important places of departure were Uden (205), Schaijk (81), Nistelrode (67) and Oploo (57). Cities such as Tilburg (76), 's-Hertogenbosch (22) and Helmond (21) lagged behind and fitted in with the image of the cities of West-Brabant. In the same period there were several West-Brabant municipalities from which emigrants left: Breda (50), Zundert (44), Roosendaal (32), Bergen op Zoom (30), Ginneken (30) Klundert (18), Fijnaart (14), Teteringen (12) and Willemstad (10). Municipalities not mentioned, including Hoeven, counted less than ten emigrants in those 24 years.

To emigrate or not

Around 1908 and subsequent years positive stories appeared in the Brabant newspapers about the possibilities on the Canadian prairies. But there were also negative stories, especially from emigrants who returned or farmers who had ended up in debt due to failed harvests. In June 1908 Antoon Weijers from Tilburg, one of the first people from Brabant in Strathmore, Alberta, Canada, published the brochure *The Truth about Alberta*. In it he explained, according to the preface, 'to paint the situation as it is', the climate, the soil quality, the yields, the required capital, the best time to emigrate and some general things to realize before leaving for Strathmore. Weijers was "content and does not regret coming here yet". In conclusion, he wrote hoping "soon to be able to shake hands with many coming here and to assist with our acquired experience, we wish you all a warm welcome". It remained difficult for the people of Brabant to make a choice whether to emigrate to Canada or the US. Probably most emigrants ultimately made the decision to emigrate depending on the reliability of the source that told the story. The better they knew and trusted the source, the easier the choice became. Especially if that source was an already emigrated fellow villager or relative.



EMIGRATING TO THE UNITED STATES

United States Immigration Policy

Since the independence of the US in 1776, everyone was able to settle in the US unhindered until about 1870. However, naturalization to American status was subject to conditions. To vote, people had to live in the US for two years and an additional year until a request for naturalization was approved. Initially, only white people could submit a request for naturalization. The conditions for naturalization were tightened in 1795. From then on, one had to live in the US for five years and wait three years after submitting the application. Subsequently, in 1798, it was changed to being a resident for fourteen years and then wait five years. In 1802 the fourteen years were brought back to five years. From 1855 onwards, the wife of an already naturalized man automatically became a resident and could submit a naturalization application straightaway to the establishment. Because of the 13th Amendment of the Constitution, slavery was abolished in 1865 and from 1870 onwards throughout the entire United States people with an African background could also apply for naturalization.

Due to the large influx of Asians between 1850 and 1870, they were no longer admitted from 1882. Only after 1965 were they allowed to settle in the US again.

From 1882, the mentally ill or people with an infectious disease were also excluded. In 1921, quotas per nationality were set, related to the number of compatriots, who already lived in the US in 1910. This scheme was primarily intended to curb the flow of emigrants from Eastern Europe that had started after 1910.

In the period from 1860 to 1934 it was therefore only possible to apply for naturalization after five years of residence and then wait for another five years.

Inspection on Ellis Island

Before 1892 immigration control from Europe took place at Castle Clinton on Lower Manhattan in New York. From that year on, all immigrants from Europe were received and medically inspected on Ellis Island, an artificial island in the port of New York. About 2% of the 12 million immigrants who arrived there between 1892 and 1954 were refused and sent back. These were often people with chronic diseases, eye diseases, mental illnesses or with a criminal past. Persons with less serious illnesses or doubtful cases would remain in quarantine on Ellis Island for a few days before a final decision was made.

Hoeven's emigrants to the United States

A first introduction

The first two emigrants found who were born in Hoeven and left for the US were the sisters **Henderina** and **Catharina Brans** of Gors. They left Zevenbergen in 1867 destination Detroit, Michigan.

Emigration to the US only got off to a good start in Hoeven in 1908. The two Hoeveners who left in March were the unmarried **Wilhelmus Pieterse** and **Jacobus van Meel**. They went looking for happiness in the new country. Their first destination was Hart, Michigan. Wilhelmus Pieterse returned to Hoeven after three years and decided to stay. Jacobus van Meel came back in January 1912 in order to marry **Anna Voermans**, from Kapelstraat 1 in Oudenbosch, and subsequently they left for British Columbia in Canada in March 1912.

At the beginning of 1908, just across the border with Hoeven, a start was made in the Kapelstraat in Oudenbosch with a so-called relationship migration or chain migration. This meant that people from the same place or neighborhood in the Netherlands left for the same place abroad simultaneously. **Johannes Dirks**, who lived at Bosschendijk 112 in Oudenbosch, and his cousin **Cornelis Voermans**, from Kapelstraat 1, left in January 1908 to Gouda, near Harrison, Lincoln County, in Wisconsin. Johannes Dirks returned shortly thereafter, but Cornelis Voermans continued to live there.

Two brothers of Cornelis Voermans, **Johannes** and **Adrianus** followed him in 1911 and 1912, respectively.

In March 1913 **Petrus Dirks**, the son of Johannes Dirks, his wife **Francisca Schoonen** and their four children also moved to Harrison. They brought along Cornelis de Bruijn, a cousin by the mother of Petrus Dirks. At that time **Cornelis de Bruijn** lived at Kapelstraat 2.

In April 1914 **Adrianus Dirks**, Petrus' brother, left together with his brand-new bride **Johanna Roozen**, who lived at Gors 54 in Hoeven. They traveled via Northcote, Minnesota and eventually ended up in Harrison in 1917.

In 1915, **Adriana Kalis**, who grew up at Gors in Hoeven, went to Harrison to marry Adrianus Voermans. On the same boat were also **Gerardus Roozen** and **Catharina de Rooij** with their four children. They went to Northcote, Minnesota, where Adrianus Dirks and Johanna Roozen, Gerardus' sister, were still living.

Also belonging to the chain on the same boat that left in 1915, were widower Mathijs Schoone and his seven children from Fijnaart. Mathijs had been married to Cornelia Dirks, a daughter of Johannes Dirks, who died in 1914. Mathijs Schoone, in turn, brought along his brother Petrus Schoone, married to Wilhelmina van Ham and their eight children, also living in Fijnaart. Mathijs Schoone and his children went directly to Harrison with Adriana Kalis. Petrus Schoone and his family initially left for Northcote, Minnesota but moved to



Harrison within a year. These two Schoone families will not be described further because they fall outside the scope of this article.

Not belonging to the emigration chain but originating from Hoeven **Anna Cornelia Vergouwen** left with her husband Kornelis Hermus from Roosendaal in March 1914. They did not go to Harrison but to Kimberly, Wisconsin, 125 miles to the south.

Leonardus de Weert from Bosschenhoofd left in 1914 to join his brother-in-law Adriaan de Bruijn who lived in Butler, Otter Tail County, Minnesota.

Joannes van Eekelen from Hoeven chose a very special detour via Constantinople to finally arrive in the US around 1915.

During the First World War, emigration was practically halted due to the uncertain situation in the world and the fact that there were hardly any ships leaving for the US.

The last links to the emigration chain were added in April 1920. Three families from Hoeven left on the same boat, destination Harrison. **Cornelis van Rijen**, stepbrother to the Voermans brothers, his wife **Catharina Brans** and their eight children left Gors 95 in Hoeven. **Cornelis van der Sanden** and **Adriana Hoeks** and their eight children left Kapelstraat 4 in Oudenbosch. **Wouter van Oosterhout** and **Anna Siemons** left with their nine children St. Janstraat 69 in Hoeven. They had lived on the Bosschendijk near the Kapelstraat in Oudenbosch from April 1900 until October 1901. In addition to these six adults, this travel group consisted of no fewer than 25 children. Also on the same boat were **Maria Janssen** and her husband **Franciscus Musson**, who left from Aardenburg, Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, to Brighton in the state of New York. The unmarried **Petrus Hoeks** from the Hofstraat in Hoeven accompanied them.

Apart from this "Hoeven" boat it was only **Petronella Vermunt** who emigrated to the US with her husband Cornelis Schrijner and their three children in 1923. Their destination was Chicago, Illinois.

After that, until 1934, no more people from Hoeven were found who had emigrated to the US. This was possibly because US immigration legislation was tightened in 1921 and quotas per nationality had been introduced.

After the Second World War several people from Hoeven left for the US, but this time period is not part of the research for this book.

Two sisters

The first two Hoeveners who made the switch to the other side of the Atlantic were the sisters Henderina and Catharina Brans from Gors in Hoeven. At the time they lived in Zevenbergen, where no fewer than 69 people left in the period 1867-1869. In 1920 their niece Catharina, daughter of brother Bernardus Brans, would follow their example with her family and leave for Harrison.

Henderina Brans (1842-1906) with her husband

Adriaan van Hoogstraten (1822-1906) and their children

Johannes (1865-????)

Wilhelmina (1866-????)

In March 1867, bricklayer Adriaan van Hoogstraten (*Zevenbergen 1822), wife Henderina Brans and their two children Johannes and Wilhelmina emigrated from Zevenbergen via Liverpool with destination Detroit, Michigan. Henderina Brans was born on May 12, 1842 at Gors 22 in Hoeven. She was the second youngest member of the family with seven children from Joannes Brans (*Oudenbosch 1806) and Willemijna Biemans (*Hoeven 1803). In 1862 she went to work as a maid in Gastel and two years later in Zevenbergen. In April 1864, she married Adriaan van Hoogstraten, who was twenty years older. They had two children here: Johannes (*1865) and Wilhelmina (*1866). In 1867 the family left for Detroit. Cornelia van Hoogstraten, one of Adriaan's sisters, and her husband Franciscus Schaghen, their son Antonie and Henderina's youngest sister, Catharina Brans went with them. Before leaving, Adriaan had sold his house, garden and yard for 650 guilders. His furniture



yielded 164 guilders and 40 cents. He was therefore registered as "indigent". The Van Hoogstraten family, however, did not settle in Detroit but 110 miles to the north in Bay City, Michigan. There they had five more children: Mary (*1867), John (*1871), Cornelius (*1873), Wilhelmina (*1875) and Anthony (*1877). The two children born in the Netherlands probably died shortly after their arrival in the US. That is why their son born in 1871 and daughter born in 1875 were re-named John and Wilhelmina.

In 1900 Adriaan and Henderina were registered in nearby Portsmouth Bay. Both died there in 1906.

Catharina Brans (1845-1910)

Catharina, the youngest sister of Henderina Brans, was born on February 28 1845 at Gors 63. She went to work as a maid for the widow Johanna de Moor-van Hoof at Goudbloemsedijk 5 in Sint Maartenspolder. Her brother Bernardus also worked there as a servant. In 1866 she left for Zevenbergen, where she started working as a maid at the bakery Anthonie de Graaf which was located in the same area where her sister lived.

In 1867 she moved with her sister Henderina's family to Detroit, Michigan. She, too, did not stay there, but went to Bay City, Michigan with her sister. Here she married Francis van de Wiel. Francis was born in Oirschot on December 3, 1833, as son of Piet van de Wiel and Marianna van Erp. In 1900 Catharina and Francis lived with her cousin Wilhelmina van Hoogstraten and her husband Marinus Jacobs in Hampton Bay, Michigan. Cousin Mary van Hoogstraten and her husband Peter van Parijs lived a few houses away. So the family continued to live close together.

Catharina Brans died in 1910 in Essexville, near Bay City. Her husband Francis died in Bay City in 1915.

Two fortune hunters

The first two transatlantic emigrants who left from Hoeven were Wilhelmus Pieterse and Jacobus van Meel. Both were relatively young (21 and 31 years old, respectively), unmarried and probably adventurous. They left in March 1908, destination Hart, Michigan. On the passenger list of the steamship Potsdam, they indicated that they were going to Johannes Youngman. This probably meant Johannes Jongmans (*Zegge 1878) who, according to the Roosendaal population register, went to Hart in March 1901. Pieterse and Jongmans must have known each other from their youth. Both were about the same age and were born and raised in Zegge.

Wilhelmus Pieterse (1877-1947)

Wilhelmus Petrus Pieterse was born on May 24, 1877 in Zegge (municipality of Rucphen), son of baker Marijnus Pieterse (*Rucphen 1845) and Johanna Zwaanen (*Rucphen 1846). He was their second child. His older brother also called Wilhelmus Petrus (*Zegge 1876) died at only two months old. It must have been heartbreaking for the family when the three daughters born afterwards also died very young. Petronella Adriana (*Zegge 1878) was four months old, Adriana Maria (*Zegge 1881) was almost eight years old and Anna Cornelia (*Zegge 1882) only survived for two and a half months. In addition, four more children were stillborn.

When Willeke, as Wilhelmus was known in Hoeven, left for Hoeven as a sixteen-year-old to work as a baker's assistant for baker Nicolaas Verpaalen in the St. Janstraat (number 41, now demolished) in 1893, his parents stayed behind in Zegge. After the death of his mother in 1898, the father left for the St. Elisabeth nursing home in Zundert in 1902. In 1907, Willeke and Nicolaas

Verpaalen bought the house at Hofstraat 7 in Hoeven and his father, then 62, went to live there.

During the fifteen years that Willeke worked at bakery Verpaalen in Hoeven, he became friends with Jacobus van Meel from Bosschenhoofd. They both decided to try their luck in America in March 1908. After traveling through America for a few years, Willeke returned to Hoeven in June 1911. He went to live with his father at Hofstraat 7. A few months later he married Agatha Herrijgers (*Zundert 1884) in Zundert on September 23, 1911. She was the daughter of Jacobus Herrijgers (*Zundert 1841) and Maria Schrauwen (*Zundert 1843). According to the Hoeven



Wilhelmus Pieterse around 1912.

(Photo collection
E. Pieterse, Zuidwolde)

and Zundert population registers, she did not live with him until a year later, August 9, 1912 in Hoeven. However, that does not seem plausible because their first daughter Florentina Johanna was born in Hoeven on November 17, 1912. They had five more children here: Maria Jacoba (*1914) who only lived for one month, Jacobus Marinus (*1917), Ludwina Maria (*1921), Marcelis Maria Bernadetta (*1922) and Bonaventura Maria Bernadetta (*1926). Grandpa Marijnus Pieterse had already died in 1924.

Willeke had resumed his old profession of baker and also ran a grocery store. Around 1930 he took over the nearby pub Café Sport, Hofstraat 11, from Adrianus Rommers and changed the name to Café Bellevue. He continued to live at Hofstraat 7. Apparently, it went well for him financially because in 1935 he had two terraced houses built next to his pub: Hofstraat 13 and 15. Or he possibly received a large legacy from his mother's family called Zwaanen, as grandson Erkembodo Pieterse had heard it mentioned. There is a stone in the facade of those houses with the inscription *First Stone laid by Bonaventura Pieterse Hoeven 5-16-1935*.

Agatha Herrijgers died on October 15, 1945 and Willeke Pieterse on May 11, 1947. Hofstraat 7 was sold to Petrus Embregts in 1950. Daughter Bonaventura, married to Adrianus van Peer, went to live in Café Bellevue. Hofstraat 13 and 15 were sold by the heirs to Marinus Vermunt.

Jacobus van Meel (Jack or Jake, 1887-1943) married to
Anna Voermans (1888-1924)

Jacobus van Meel was born in Hoeven on February 16, 1887, son of Willem Antonius van Meel (*Hoeven 1848) who was married to Johanna Brabers (*Hoeven 1863) in June 1884. The couple went to live at Uilenspiegelweg 4 in Bosschenhoofd. Jacobus was the second child of a total of nine children, five sons and four daughters. Two children died at a young age. Father Willem van Meel died on June 5, 1898 in Hoeven. He was 49 years old. Two months later his youngest son Willem was born. Jacobus was only eleven years old at the time. Mother Johanna Brabers remarried on May 25, 1903 to Johannes Dirven (*Gastel 1867). A year and a half later, Johanna Brabers died on December 11, 1904. This caused the family to break apart. Johannes Dirven returned to Gastel and the children were placed with different family members.

Jacobus van Meel lived as a servant at Gors 95 with Bernardus Brans from June 17, 1905. From there he left on March 13, 1908, just 21 years old, with his friend Willeke Pieterse from Hoeven to try their luck in America. They arrived on Ellis Island on April 2, 1908. Jacobus van Meel came from an adventurous family because his uncles Cornelis (*Hoeven 1839) and Adrianus van Meel (*Etten 1845) had both been Zouaves. Adrianus van Meel even joined the Carlists and joined De Witte Paters (The White Fathers) as a guard



The children of Wilhelmus van Meel and Johanna Brabers around 1905 when both parents had already died. From left to right: Wilhelmus, Anna, Johannes, Geertruida, Jacobus, Cornelis and Gerardus van Meel.

(Photo collection A. van Meel, Hoeven)

on their journey through the African desert.

From the age of seventeen, Jacobus had an eye on his neighbor Anna Cornelia Voermans (*Oudenbosch 1888) of Kapelstraat 1 in Oudenbosch. She was the only daughter of Petrus Voermans (*Hoeven 1853) and Anna Maria Dirks (*Oudenbosch 1852) and was born on February 10, 1888 at Kapelstraat 1.

A few months before his departure, the two were in a steady relationship and Jacobus promised Anna to marry her after his return.

When he arrived in America, Jacobus would undoubtedly have visited Cornelis Voermans, the brother of his beloved. Two months earlier, in January 1908, Cornelis had emigrated to Gouda, a remote place near Harrison, Wisconsin. After a trip through America and Canada, Jacobus returned to Hoeven four years later on January 30, 1912 and went to live temporarily with his sister Geertruida (*Hoeven 1885) and her husband Petrus Hopstaken (*Hoeven 1879) at Gors 63.

Jacobus married Anna Cornelia Voermans on February 12, 1912 as promised. Her stepmother, Maria Verschuren (*Hoeven 1849) who married Petrus





The young couple Jacobus van Meel and Anna Voermans restock their firewood in Canada around 1912.

(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)

Voermans in April 1892 after Anna Dirks had died in January of that year, was unhappy with this marriage. She advised her stepdaughter against marrying Jacobus as “he’s too eager to travel and they would never have a permanent place of residence”. Her opinion was probably influenced by the fact that three of her four stepsons, Cornelis, Johannes and Adrianus Voermans, had already emigrated to America in 1908, 1911 and 1912 respectively. Maria Verschuren was left with her own son Cornelis van Rijen (*Ouden-bosch 1876), from her previous marriage to Cornelis

van Rijen (*Oudenbosch 1841), and her eldest stepson Petrus Voermans (*Oudenbosch 1880) who still lived at home with his wife Maria Roozen (*Hoeven 1880).

Jacobus van Meel and Anna Voermans left a month after their wedding. They sailed from Antwerp or Rotterdam to Grimsby near Hull. From there they continued their journey with the Great Central Railway to Liverpool and sailed on the Dominion from Liverpool to Halifax in Canada on March 16, 1912, arriving on March 28. They then traveled directly by train to the west coast and settled in New Westminster, British Columbia where they stayed until their death, so the wanderlust that Jacobus’ mother-in-law had feared never really happened.

Jacobus and Anna may have chosen this region because Ignatius van der Bom from Hoeven had already started a tree nursery there in 1910. During his first trip Jacobus visited Adrianus Hoeks from Hoeven in March 1911, who was working at the Surrey Nurseries Limited with Ignatius van der Bom at that time.



Jacobus van Meel and Anna Voermans and their two children Anna (left) and Maria (right) around 1922.

(Photo collection D. O'Connor, St. Albert, Alberta, Canada)

Their first daughter, Anna Maria was born on December 23, 1912, so she must have been conceived shortly before or during their ocean voyage. Their second daughter, Maria Nellie, was born there on August 23, 1916. It was a very special event for the Van Meel-Voermans family when, in the autumn of 1915 they met with the three brothers, Cornelis, Johannes and Adrianus Voermans, who had emigrated to America earlier. It is unclear if Jacobus and Anna traveled to Harrison, Wisconsin or if the brothers and their wives and

children traveled to New Westminster, a journey of around 2,000 miles.



The front of the new house with the colorful garden in Coquitlam around 1950, designed by Jacobus van Meel.

(Photo collection D. O'Connor, St. Albert, Alberta, Canada)



During the struggle of the Papal State against the Italian nationalists in 1861, Pope Pius IX called on volunteers to come to his aid. The French troops, who had been defending the Papal State since 1849, were too weak against the much larger nationalist army. Following the French model, a separate army unit was set up with fighters from the North African Berber tribe Zouaouwa, the Zouaves.

11,500 Young men responded to the papal call. In the Netherlands 3,200 volunteers signed up via their pastors. From the assembly point Oudenbosch, they traveled by train to Brussels where they were examined before continuing their journey to Marseille. To avoid the Italian nationalists' territory, they were taken by boat to Rome, where they underwent a brief military training. The Dutch were deployed for guard duty, nursing of cholera patients in Albano in 1867 and they fought in the battle for Mentana and Monte Libretti.

Due to the disastrous ending of a war against the North German Federation, started by France in 1870, the French withdrew their troops from the Papal State. The Papal Zouaves had to surrender on September 20, 1870. They lost the battle and around five percent did not survive. After handing in their weapons, the Zouaves gathered at Saint Peter's Square in the Vatican City in Rome. The pope appeared on the balcony, blessed the guards, and pardoned them all until the third generation. The Dutch Zouaves traveled by boat to Genoa and then returned home by train, where they were often met with great enthusiasm by family, fellow Catholics and villagers. To maintain the mutual bond, Zouave fraternities were formed.

Because King William III had only given permission to a small number of Zouaves to enter foreign service, most of them became stateless, which, for example, meant they could not become civil servants. Most returned to their previous duties. The more adventurous joined the Carlists in their third civil war (1872-1876) in Spain, accompanied the White Fathers, founded in 1868, as protectors on their mission to Africa, or they emigrated to America.

Sources (mostly in Dutch, sorry):

<https://dbnl.org> (search for: ronseling van minderjarigen)

<https://www.historietilburg.nl/wp-content/uploads/Jaargang-14-1996-nummer-2.pdf>

www.geschiedenisbeleven.nl (search for: zouaaf)

www.sodalitium.cloud/pauselijke-zouaven-150-jaar

nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/zoeaaf (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/zouave)

zouavenmuseum.nl/?s=english)



Granddad Jack van Meel with his first grandson Robert West, son of his eldest daughter Anna van Meel and George West, in 1937.

(Photo collection D. O'Connor, St. Albert, Alberta, Canada)

Aged 36, Anna van Meel-Voermans died from a chronic inflammation of a heart muscle on November 13, 1924. She was buried in Sapperton, British Columbia. Jacobus, his name was Jack or Jake van Meel in Canada, was left behind with his eldest daughter Anna (11 years old) and Maria (only 8 years old). Jack worked as a garden designer and gardener at the B.C. Mental Hospital in Essondale, where Ignatius van der Bom had supervised the personnel at the botanical gardens from 1913 to 1918. Jack worked here until he fell ill in November 1942. In

the meantime, Jack had built a new house in nearby Coquitlam. He also designed a beautiful garden that sadly, he could no longer enjoy. Jack died of stomach cancer on April 16, 1943. He was buried alongside his wife in Sapperton. On January 28, 1933 his daughter Mary married engineer George West (*Hanna, North Dakota 1901). Two years later, on August 26, 1935 daughter Mary married William (Bill) Field (*Port Moody, British Columbia 1913).

Jack's daughter Anna and her husband George West continued to develop the garden. The floral garden with several Japanese cherry trees, walnut and apricot trees had frequently been photographed and published in various magazines.

At first, contact with family back home in the Netherlands was only by writing. This was apparent from a letter written by Jack's brother, Gerardus van Meel (*Hoeven 1897) in



January 1932, in which he wrote that he had heard nothing from his brother and wondered how he and his two daughters were doing. In his letter, Gerardus describes how bad things are in the Netherlands, that unemployment is high and that he can barely make ends meet with four growing children, but that he's still "working for the railways" and that he's lucky to have work.

According to the Veendam steamship passenger list, Jack van Meel visited the Netherlands for the first time in 1934, as the list showed Jack traveling back from Rotterdam to Canada on July 24, 1934. He sailed on the Statendam via New York to the Netherlands again in April 1937. Because he traveled via New York, he probably also visited his brothers-in-law, Cornelis and Adrianus Voermans and their children who lived in Harrison, Wisconsin. Peter Voermans (*Harrison 1914), the eldest son of Cornelis Voermans, still recalled in 1980 the many visits Jack van Meel made to Harrison.

Harrison, Lincoln County, Wisconsin

Mass emigration chain

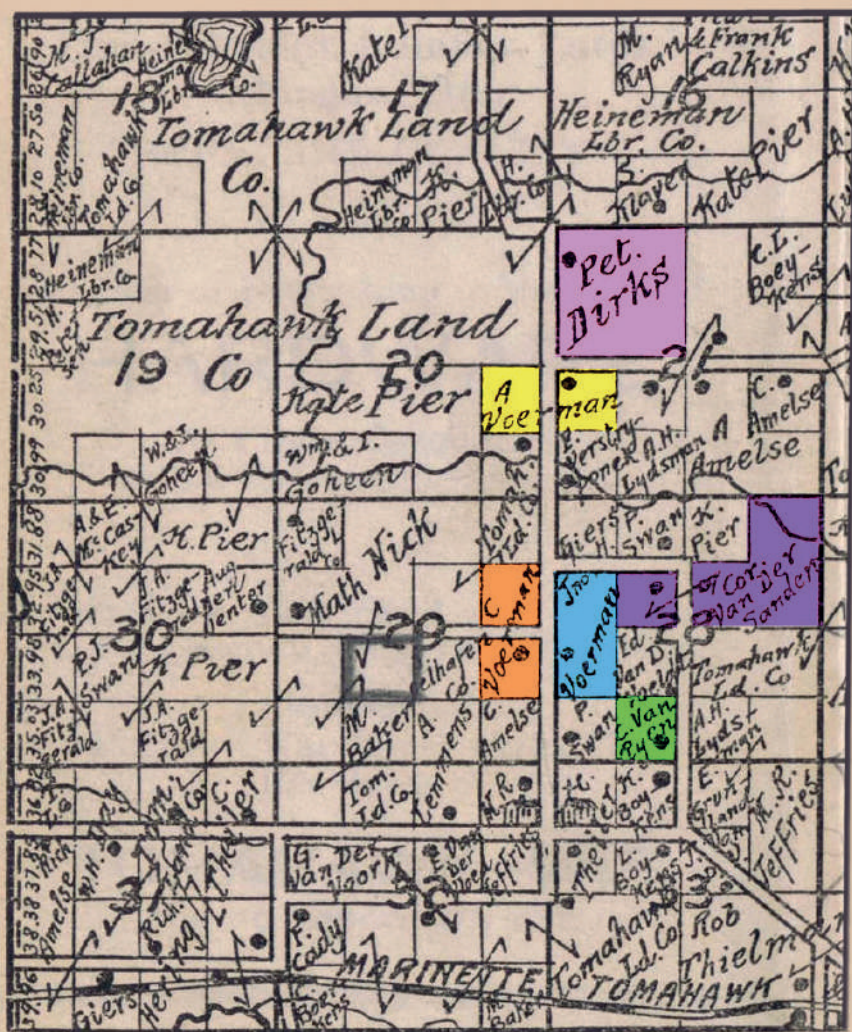
Johannes Dirks and his nephew, Cornelis Voermans were the initiators of this mass emigration chain from the surrounding area of Kapelstraat in Oudenbosch and nearby Gors in Hoeven to the small town of Harrison, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. Many people from this mass emigration chain not only lived in this neighborhood, but they were also related.









Rural Harrison in 1934. (Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)



PART OF HARRISON



	<i>Peter Dirks</i>		<i>John Voermans</i>
	<i>Adrian Voermans</i>		<i>Con van Ryen</i>
	<i>Con Voermans</i>		<i>Red Case van der Sanden</i>

Harrison, Lincoln County, Wisconsin

Harrison, a small village in the wilderness of northern Wisconsin, dates back to around 1900. The village 'survived' despite lumberjacks cutting and clearing all the trees and moving further north. Land only cost \$ 1.25 cents per acre (about 4,000 square metres). The lumberjacks' huts remained uninhabited and Harrison became a ghost town. Some Dutch and Belgian families settled here to cultivate the land. The first Dutch pioneers to settle here named the town Gouda. They were the Amelse, Haring and Swan families from Blokker and the surrounding area, now the municipality of Medemblik, Noord-Holland.

The De Bels, Boykins and Van Strydonk families came from Belgium. They were possibly accompanied by Father Charles Hoogstoel who was sent from Flanders to Wisconsin in 1884 to support and help the already settled Flemish emigrants.

To make the land arable for farming, the tree stumps that the loggers had left behind had to be removed, which they did by using dynamite.



The school in Harrison around 1940.

(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)

Johannes Dirks (1848-1935)

The initiator of the chain migration was Johannes, the son of Pieter Dirks (*Hoeven 1819) and Cornelia Kools (*Hoeven 1813), who married on May 11, 1845 in Oudenbosch.

Pieter Dirks was born at Gors 22 and Cornelia Kools in the Achterhoek in Bosschenhoofd, now Achterhoeksestraat 106 in Rucphen. After their wedding, Pieter Dirks and Cornelia Kools lived at Kapelstraat 1 in Oudenbosch,



Especially in the first decades life was hard and difficult but a few families persisted, making Harrison a thriving farming community from the 1930s to the 1960s.

Milk was brought to the local cheese factory and the children attended the local primary school. There was a Catholic church, dances were held in the town hall and the local pub. Families were all large, mothers and children all worked on the farms. There was no other employment besides the farm and the cheese factory, so many young people left.

Now there are just a few hobby farms in the area and once again trees have been planted on a lot of the land. Only 793 people lived in Harrison in 2000. The cheese factory and the school are gone but the church with the cemetery is still there.

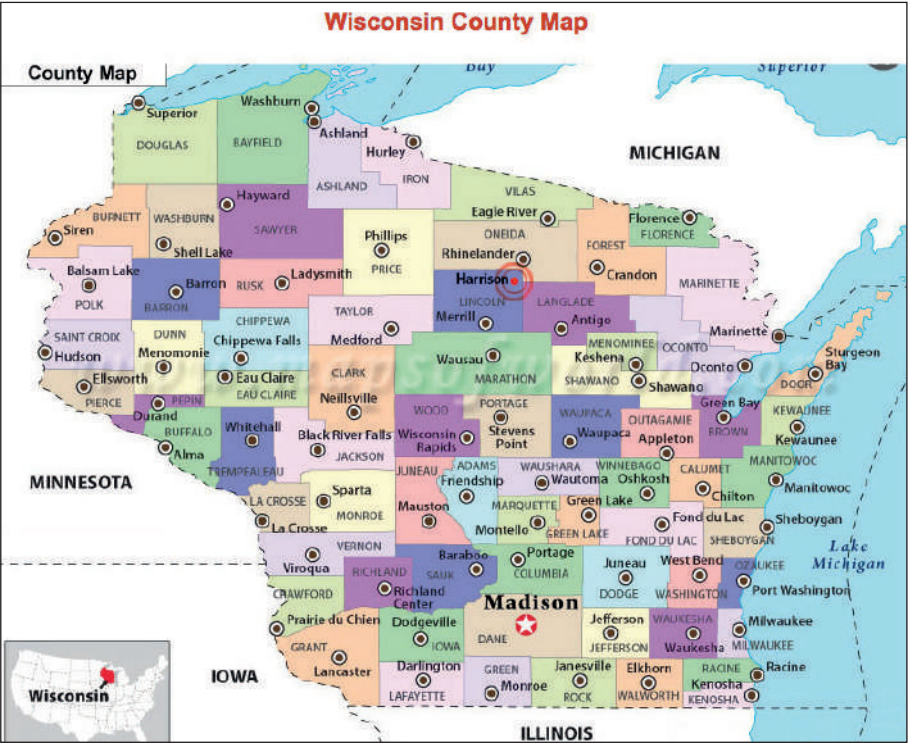
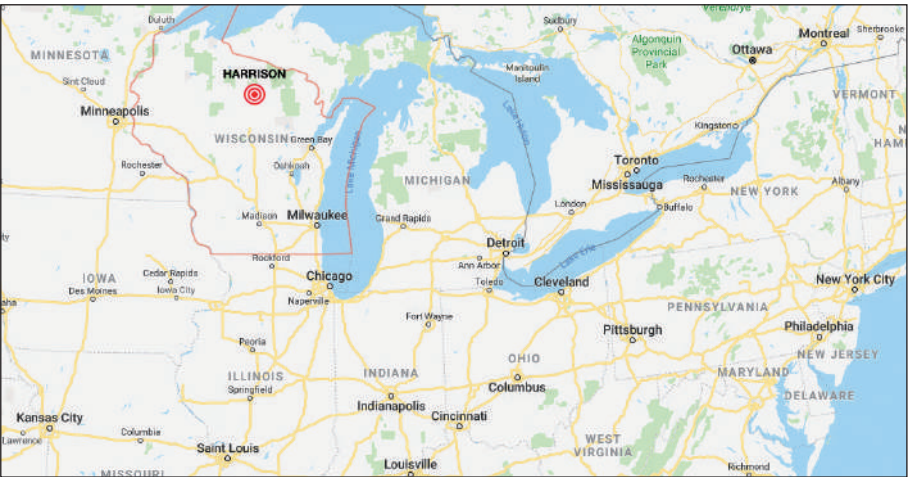


Cemetery in Harrison in 2018.

(Photo collection J. van Ryen, Greensboro, North Carolina, US)

where both their two children were born, Johannes (*Oudenbosch 1848) and Anna Maria (*Oudenbosch 1852).

His son Johannes married Johanna Maria Potters (*Rucphen 1847) in 1872 and lived at Gors in Hoeven, where numbers 33 and 35 once stood. Shortly afterwards they moved to Gors 18 where their first child was stillborn in October 1872. A year later their eldest son Johannes (*Hoeven 1873) was born. He died aged eighteen in 1890. The family moved to the Kapelstraat in





*Al Sterchie (l) and Adrianus Schoone (r) in front of the cheese factory in Harrison in 1934.
(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)*

Oudenbosch in 1874. Their son Petrus was born there in 1876 and their daughter Cornelia in 1878. Why the family left for Putte in Belgium in 1879 is unknown. Six years later they returned to Oudenbosch, blessed with yet another daughter Johanna (*Putte (B) 1881). There they lived at Bosschendijk



*The Pool Hall in Harrison in 1934.
(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)*

112, just west of the Kapelstraat on a farm that was located about 100 yards south of the Bosschendijk. In 1885, mother Johanna gave birth to another stillborn baby and in 1887 son Adrianus was born here.

Father Johannes Dirks “emigrated” at the age of 60, together with his nephew Cornelis Voermans (*Oudenbosch 1882). Or was he simply accompanying his 25-year-old nephew? Cornelis Voermans was one of the sons of his sister, Anna Maria Dirks who was married to Petrus Voermans.

On January 25, 1908 they left Rotterdam for Gouda, Wisconsin, a town which no longer exists but back then it was situated a few miles west of Harrison. With whom they intended to stay there is difficult to read on the passenger list of the Statendam. Possibly Johannes Dirks knew someone there who he had met when he lived in Putte, Belgium. Probably Johannes returned quite soon thereafter, because in Oudenbosch, he reported his wife’s passing on November 22, 1912 himself. A few years later Johannes Dirks, with no less than \$ 1,600 in his pocket, was on the passenger list of



*Con Voermans and Mary De Bels family in Harrison around 1925. From left to right: Madeleine, Con with Leona on his lap, Peter, Connie, Mary De Bels and Marie.
(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)*

the Potsdam which departed from Rotterdam to New York on April 24, 1915. He went to visit his youngest son Adrianus Dirks in Northcote, Minnesota. At the end of 1919 he was officially registered again on the population register of Oudenbosch, where he died in 1935.

Cornelis Voermans (Con, 1882-1967)

Cornelis Voermans, the third son of Petrus Voermans (*Hoeven 1853) and Anna Maria Dirks (*Oudenbosch 1852), was born in Oudenbosch on August 31, 1882. Anna Maria was the sister of the aforementioned Johannes Dirks. Their third son Cornelis Voermans was born after Adrianus (*Oudenbosch 1879) who died at age eleven in 1890, and Petrus (*Oudenbosch 1880). After Cornelis came Johannes (*Oudenbosch 1884), who was only three months old at the time of his death, Johannes (*Oudenbosch 1885), Anna Cornelia (*Oudenbosch 1888) and Adrianus (*Oudenbosch 1890).

Mother Anna Maria Dirks died on January 2, 1892. In April 1892 father Petrus married Maria Wilhelmina Verschuren (*Hoeven 1849), the widow of Cornelis van Rijen. After the death of father Petrus Voermans in January 1895, the care of his children was left to their stepmother. The children were aged between four and fifteen years old.

When Cornelis Voermans was 25 years old, he was the first to set the chain in motion by setting off on January 25, 1908, together with his uncle, Johannes Dirks, for Gouda near Harrison, Wisconsin. Due to a misunderstanding, they first ended up in Gonda in Canada after a long train journey. Someone had read the "u" from Gouda as an "n". Fortunately, someone there spoke Dutch and set the pair on the right track to Gouda, Wisconsin.

In 1909 Cornelis Voermans



Con Voermans and Mary De Bels with their son Peter Voermans in 1915.

(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)



*The golden couple Con and Mary Voermans-De Bels on November 10, 1963.
(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)*

bought his first piece of land, which was 40 acres. In 1913 in Tomahawk he married Mary De Bels (*Tielt (B) 1895), a daughter of Gustav and Leona De Bels. Gustav De Bels had emigrated to Gouda in 1902, his wife followed with the children George and Mary in February 1905.

Con, as Cornelis was known in Wisconsin, and Mary lived in a log cabin. Here their four eldest children, Peter (*1914), Marie (*1917), Madeleine (*1918) and Conny (*1920), were born with the help of Rose van Strydonk-Boykins, a midwife with Belgian roots, who had lived in Wisconsin together with her family since 1905.

Con Voermans built a new house in 1921, where Leona (*1923) and Donald (*1932) were born. Con Voermans worked a lot with his brothers, John and





Con Voermans' farm in Harrison around 1910.

(Photo collection G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin, US)



Con Voermans' farm in Harrison around 1927. Pictured is his daughter Leona.

(Photo collection G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin, US)

Adrian and neighbor and friend Cornelis de Bruijn, who came to Harrison in 1911, 1912 and 1913, respectively.

Con provided various services to Al Capone who operated an illegal alcohol distillery in the Harrison forests in 1926/1927. (See the textbox 'Hoeveners' working for Al Capone on page 60).

Con Voermans was chairman/mayor of Harrison from 1928 to 1945 as well

Con Voermans with a deer he shot himself in November 1961 for Christmas dinner.

(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)

as member of the school board. He retired in 1948.

Con and Mary celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1963, inviting the entire family. Mary Field-van Meel, the youngest daughter of sister Anna van Meel-Voermans, came from Canada with her husband Bill Field. There was regular contact between the Voermans families in Harrison and the Van Meel-Voermans families in Canada. Jacobus van Meel and his daughter Anna, her husband George West and their son Robert had already visited Harrison in

1939. Brother Adrian Voermans went to visit the family in Canada in 1945. Con Voermans visited the descendants of Jacobus van Meel with his wife Mary, their daughter Leona and her husband Werner Zimmer in 1952. There

was another visit to Harrison by Anna West-van Meel in 1958.

Con Voermans died on March 30, 1967. His wife Mary Voermans-De Bels died on February 28, 1981.

Their eldest son Peter mar-



Con Voermans and his sister-in-law Nellie Voermans-Klaver admire the bear cub recently shot by her son Peter Voermans around 1945.

(Photo collection G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin, US)



Visit from Canada in November 1963 to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Con and Mary Voermans-De Bels. From left to right: Con Voermans, Mary Field van Meel, Bill Field and Mary Voermans-De Bels.

(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)



Con Voermans' former farm in Harrison, now (2019) occupied by Grant Voermans.
(Photo collection G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin, US)

ried Ruth Kaas in June 1947 and took over the farm from his father in 1950. The farm was then 160 acres (about 64 hectares) with 40 dairy cows. The farm was hit by a tornado in 1969 which flattened all the barns, including the old barn built in 1917, but fortunately the main house was spared. Eight cows were struck by lightning the following year. Peter and Ruth rebuilt everything and farmed there until 1980. Peter died in 1991, after being bedridden for 5 years. Ruth died in 2000. Grant Voermans, a great-grandson of Johannes Voermans, Con Voermans' brother, now occupies the farm.

Con Voermans' youngest son Donald, died in 1958 at the age of 26 in Wausau, about 50 miles south of Harrison. He was electrocuted while working in a power plant. He left behind his wife Rita Bergeron and three children, Donald, Jeffrey and Gerald. Donald served the US Air Force in the Korean War from February 1951 to November 1952.

Con and Mary's four daughters left Harrison after they got married.

Johannes Voermans (John, 1885-1920)

Johannes Voermans, son of Petrus Voermans and Anna Maria Dirks, born on October 11, 1885 in Oudenbosch, left for Harrison in March 1911. He sailed on the *Vaderland* from Antwerp to join his brother Cornelis, who had been



At the end of 1915 the Voermans' siblings came together for a group photo. Standing from left to right: Cornelis, Johannes and Adrianus Voermans and Jacobus van Meel. Sitting from left to right: their wives, Mary De Bels with son Peter, Nellie Klaver with son Peter, Adriana Kalis and Anna Cornelia Voermans with daughter Anna Maria.
(Photo collection D. O'Connor, St. Albert, Alberta, Canada)



Anna and Peter Voermans, Johannes Voermans and Nellie Klaver's children, around 1917. (Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)



Johannes Voermans' widow with her second husband Bill Kaatz and children in 1940. Back row from left to right: William (Bill) Kaatz, Nellie Klaver, Lawrence Voermans, Anna Voermans and Peter J. Voermans. Front from left to right: Gordon and Chester Kaatz. (Photo collection G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin, US)

living in Harrison for three years. He started working for Cornelis and later also for his brother Adrianus. He married Nellie Klaver (*Marinette, Wisconsin 1895) in April 1913, who together with her parents, brother and three sisters had moved from Marinette, a city in Wisconsin, to Harrison around 1900. Together they farmed around 80 acres of land and kept about ten to twelve cows. There was a log cabin and a small shed on the land and they built a new home in 1918.

They had three children: Peter (*1913), Anna (*1916) and Lawrence (*1918).



*Lawrence Voermans visited the Kapelstraat as an American soldier shortly after the Second World War. On the left is the barn at Kapelstraat 12. Piet Voermans (*1910) is on the left. The boy in the middle in the background is his son Piet (*1944). The young boy with Lawrence Voermans is Keesje (1947-1961), also Piet Voermans' son.
(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)*

John, aged 35, died from a fatal accident in 1920. Whilst sawing wood with a circular saw, John fell forward into the tool and succumbed to his injuries a few days later.

Nellie Klaver, his widow, married Bill Kaatz in 1923 and they expanded the farm. They had two children, Chester and Gordon. Peter Voermans, the eldest son, took over the farm in 1954 and expanded it further to 160 acres

American soldier in the Kapelstraat

Lawrence Voermans (*Harrison 1918), Johannes Voermans and Nellie Klaver's youngest son, served in the US Army shortly after the Second World War. During that period, he was stationed somewhere in Europe on an American base. He visited his family in the Kapelstraat in Oudenbosch in an American jeep. He was also photographed with his family in front of the mill in Zevenbergen, on their way to Moerdijk to see the bridges blown up by the Germans.





*Soldier Lawrence Voermans in front of the mill in Zevenbergen on his way to Moerdijk in 1945. From left to right: cousin Johannes Voermans (*1914), uncle Petrus Voermans (*1888) and Lawrence Voermans. The others are unknown.*

(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)

of which around 40 acres was forest. His son John, who was then 25 years old, took over the farm in 1980. He planted a plot of Norwegian pine trees and 80 acres with grain and hay. John Voermans junior had four sons with his wife Beverley Luse: John, Grant, Matthew and Andrew. Grant Voermans still lives in Harrison today, on the exact site where Cornelis Voermans, his great-grandfather's brother, had started out in 1908.

Nellie Klaver died in 1982.



Lawrence Voermans at work in Harrison around 1940.

(Photo collection G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin, US)

Adrianus Voermans (Adrian, 1890-1964) married to

Adriana Kalis (Jenny, 1892-1947), second marriage to

Johanna Kalis (Joan, 1916-2005)

The third and youngest son of Petrus Voermans and Anna Dirks who emigrated to Harrison was Adrianus, born in the Kapelstraat on August 12, 1890. He sailed with Cornelis van Oosterhout (*Tilburg 1887), who also lived in Oudenbosch, with the Potsdam from Rotterdam on April 13, 1912. Adrian worked with his brothers Con and John, before he bought his first land. His beloved Adriana Kalis joined him in Harrison to marry him in 1915. She was called Jenny here.

Adriana Kalis was the daughter of Gerardus Kalis (*Hoeven 1845) and Johanna de Jong (*Hoeven 1851). She was born on July 30, 1892 at Oude Antwerpsepostbaan 88 in Hoeven. She was their ninth and youngest child. Her family moved to the Pastoor van Breugelstraat on December 22, 1893, occupying what are now numbers 22 to 28, and took over the running of the local pub from Marijn van Oosterhout.



Records then show that they moved to Gors 111 in Hoeven on May 25, 1904. Father Gerardus leased the farm and was registered as an agricultural worker. After the death of mother Johanna de Jong on February 24, 1908, they moved to the neighboring house Gors 109 on May 1, 1909. On December 3, 1913 the remaining family members, father, Christianus (*Hoeven 1886), Antonius (*Hoeven 1891) and daughter Adriana moved to Oudenbosch.

Father Gerardus Kalis died there a week later.

Adriana Kalis, 22 years old,

Adrianus Voermans and Adriana Kalis with their children Annie and Peter around 1920.

*(Photo collection
D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)*



Adrianus Voermans and Adriana Kalis with their five children in front of their car around 1927. From left to right: Annie, Agnes, Cornelius (Casey), Christiaan (Tony), mother Adriana, father Adrianus and Peter.

(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)

was listed on the passenger list of the Potsdam that departed from Rotterdam on April 24, 1915. She had indicated that her destination was her future husband Adrianus Voermans in Harrison. Matthijs Schoone, his seven children and his brother Pieter Schoone, his wife Wilhelmina van Ham and their eight children, all from Fijnaart, also left from West-Brabant on the same boat. And from Hoeven also on that boat, were Gerardus Roozen, his wife Catharina de Rooij and their four children. Jan Dirks, the emigration chain initiator, also went to visit his son Adrianus Dirks and possibly acted as Adriana Kalis' chaperone.

Adriana traveled by train from New York to Pelican, Wisconsin, where she was met by Adrianus Voermans and Al van Strydonk. Together with Matthijs Schoone's family, they continued their journey on a draisine, a muscle powered rail cart that runs on a rail track with a flat cart behind it, which took them through the forests to Harrison, thirteen miles further. Matthijs Schoone's young children, the oldest was fourteen years old and the youngest one and a half, found the journey scary. Matthijs Schoone and his eldest son John, almost ten years old, kept their knives in hand, because with all the wild animals roaming around in the forests, one had to be prepared.

After their wedding Adrian and Jenny lived in a log cabin in Con Voermans' backyard. Later they built a house on the corner of Highway D and the Mail Route in Harrison. They had ten children, two of whom died as babies. Their eldest daughter Ann (*Harrison 1916) moved to Portsmouth, Virginia after her second marriage to Thomas Miechurski and died there in 1977. Their eldest son Peter A. Voermans (*Harrison 1919) went to live in nearby Tomahawk after his wedding. He died there in 1999. Daughter Agnes (*Tomahawk 1923) went to Saint Louis in Missouri and died there in 1983. Cornelius (Casey) (*1925) was killed as a corporal at the age of nineteen during the Battle of Okinawa, Japan in April 1945 as one of the 12,000 American soldiers.



The eight children of Adrianus Voermans and Adriana Kalis in Harrison around 1934. From left to right: Robert, Adrian, Rosalie, Christiaan, Cornelius, Agnes, Peter and Annie.
(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)



Adrianus (Janus) with his brother Petrus (Piet) Voermans amongst the cornfields in the Kapelstraat in Oudenbosch around 1950.

(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)

Shortly after joining the US Army in 1945, their son, Christian (Tony) (*1926) returned home sick. After his mother Jenny Kalis died in 1947, he rented the farm from his father. He married Dorothy (Bonnie) Biard (*1930) in 1950 and continued farming. In 1966 they sold it and moved ten miles north of Tomahawk, near Heafford Junction, Wisconsin.

Rosalie (Rose) (*1928) married Richard Mayfield and left for St. Charles, Illinois.

Adrianus junior (Adrian) (*1929) got married and went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was one of the 300 men who served in the US Army from June 1951 to June 1953 and provided support to the South Korean army that fought against North Korea.



Joan Voermans-Kalis is taken to the airport by her stepson Christiaan (Tony) Voermans and his wife Bonny Voermans-Biard for her trip to the Netherlands in 1972.

(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)



Adrianus Voermans and Joan Kalis at the golden wedding of Cornelis Voermans and Mary De Bels in November 1963.

*(Photo collection
D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)*

The youngest son Robert (Bobby) (*1932) married Bonny Faye Emery in 1963 and went to California.

For the first time after her emigration Jenny Voermans-Kalis visited the Netherlands in 1930, together with her ten-month-old

son Adrian. It was only after she died in 1947 that Adrian decided to go back to his native country. Afterwards he visited the Netherlands several times. From May 1950 till November 1951 and during the flood of 1953, Adrian Voermans was in Oudenbosch. He wrote about this last visit in the letter he sent from Oudenbosch to his brother Con Voermans in Harrison. He wrote that the water came to Oudenbosch and both Fijnaart and Willemstad were under water. He himself visited the disaster area on February 9, the same day that Queen Juliana also informed herself of the situation. He was full of praise for the American soldiers stationed in Germany who offered their help in flooded West-Brabant. They rescued people from rooftops and trees using helicopters.

On May 21, 1954, he traveled again from New York to the Netherlands. During one of those Dutch journeys, he met Johanna Kalis (*Oudenbosch 1916), the daughter of a brother of his deceased wife. Despite the large age difference of almost 26 years, they got into a relationship. Johanna still lived at home with her father, who she cared for. She was unable or unwilling to go to America at first. Only after her father Christiaan Kalis had died in June 1955 did she decide to move to America. Adrian Voermans and Johanna Kalis were allegedly married in Breda in secrecy.

They left on March 17, 1956 with the Westerdam from Rotterdam to New York and bought the home of Albert Lemmens in Harrison. They did not get to enjoy a long life together. Adrian died in 1964 as a result of a stroke, after which Joan moved to Tomahawk. Until her retirement she worked in the kitchen of the St. Mary Hospital. Joan maintained frequent written contact with her family and acquaintances in the Netherlands and visited in 1972. In 2005 she died in Tomahawk, aged 88, and was buried alongside her husband in Harrison.



*In 2018 this farm is located on the spot where Adrian Voermans used to farm.
(Photo collection G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin, US)*

Petrus Dirks (Peter, 1876-1959) and his wife

Francisca Schoonen (Frances, 1878-1943) together with their children

Johannes (John, 1904-1971)

Nicolaas (Nick, 1905-1979)

Johanna Maria (Mary, 1906-1981)

Cornelis (Casey, 1908-2002)

Petrus Dirks was the second son of Johannes Dirks and Johanna Potters. He was born on May 8, 1876 in Oudenbosch in the Kapelstraat 3. In 1903 he married Francisca Schoonen (*1878), also born in Oudenbosch. They went to live with his father Johannes Dirks at Bosschendijk 112. Here they had four children: Johannes (*1904), Nicolaas (*1905), Johanna (*1906) and Cornelis (*1908). In March 1913 they left for New York, undoubtedly inspired by the positive stories that nephew Cornelis Voermans had written about and certainly also encouraged by father Johannes Dirks to come to Harrison. Upon arrival they took the train to Pelican and switched to the connecting train to Harrison. They bought a small house from Louis Boykins and expanded it. Peter, who already had a small farm in Oudenbosch, was able to make his dream come true. Together with his four children, they built a large dairy farm.

Frances died in 1943. Peter continued to work on the farm which his son Cornelis (Casey) had taken over until his death on November 1, 1959. That year on August 12 the entire harvest was lost due to a hailstorm.



Harrison town hall in 1934.

(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)



Harrison town hall in 2018.

(Photo collection J. van Ryen, Greensboro, North Carolina, US)



The eldest son, **John** Dirks, married Irma van der Vloedt in 1935. He first worked for his father, but in 1940 they bought the neighboring farm. John and Irma had seven children here. The oldest was Catharina, who moved to nearby Tomahawk after her wedding. Then came the twins Dorothy and Dora. Dorothy became a nun in the Sorrowful Mother monastery in Milwaukee. Dora died in a fire. His son Peter went to live in Oshkosh, Wisconsin after his marriage. His son Joseph died in a car accident in 1965. The youngest two children of John Dirks and Irma van der Vloedt, Larry and Frances, both moved to Tomahawk. John Dirks died in 1971.

Frances and Peter's second son, **Nick** Dirks, married Dora Anderson in 1933. He started a farm in nearby Elm City. They had no fewer than ten children. Nick and Dora stayed on the farm until they died. Nick died in 1979 and Dora in 1995. Both are buried in the Saint Augustine Cemetery in Harrison. None of their children took over the farm. They all moved away. Nick junior and Peter joined the US Army and left for California. Patience married and went to Marshfield, Wisconsin. Casey left for Chicago. Mary married and lived in Eagle River, Wisconsin. Danny also married and left for Akron, Ohio. Ann stayed closer after her wedding and went to Merrill, Wisconsin. John remained unmarried and moved to Madison, Wisconsin. Thomas died in service with the US Army in 1968. The youngest, Timothy, also remained unmarried and, like his brother John, lived in Madison.



Frances Schoonen with grandchild Frances Swan and Petrus Dirks with grandchild Bernie Swan in Harrison in 1934.

(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)



On the left Cornelis (Casey) and his brother John Dirks in Harrison in 1934.

*(Photo collection
J. Lambel-Biggs,
Fresno, California, US)*

Daughter **Mary** Dirks married Cornelius (Case) Swan (*Harrison 1905) on October 16, 1930. He was the youngest son of Peter Swan and Bernardina Schouten, who had emigrated to America from Blokker in Noord-Holland in 1892.

Mary and Case lived with his father for a year and then bought a piece of land opposite Mary's parents and built a log cabin there. They did not have enough chairs to sit on and used empty dynamite boxes instead. When Mary

went to pick up cows in the woods, she always brought a gun to defend herself against the coyotes. They too lost their entire harvest and part of the roof of their house and shed during the hailstorms of August 1959.

In 1969 they sold the farm to their daughter Mary. They had seven children in total. Mary Dirks died in 1981 and Case Swan in 1998. Their eldest daughter Frances married Jim Mabree and went to Belle Plaine, Minnesota. Bernardine married Larry Vandervest and went to nearby Rhinelander. Then came the twins Peter and Agnes. Peter joined the US Army and married Corinne Schoone and moved to Tomahawk. Agnes went to a monastery but married Sam Bernhardt after her resignation. They moved to Denver, Colorado. Daughter Mary first married Darwin Hilgendorf. After his death, she married Joe Zahringer in 1974 and then lived in Tomahawk. The youngest two sons, John and Eugene, were members of The National Guard in Washington. John married Bettie Houck and went to Merrill, Wisconsin and Eugene married Ginny Kahle and left for Tomahawk.

Casey Dirks, the youngest son of Peter and Frances Dirks, married Jacoba van Oosterhout (*Hoeven 1910), daughter of Wouter van Oosterhout and Anna Maria Siemons in 1945. She had emigrated to Harrison with her





where he married Margaret Ciurlik. In 1974 they sold the farm with all its machines and cattle. Casey died on April 7, 2002 in Washington, Wisconsin. Margaret had already died in 1994. Both were buried in Cudahy.

parents, brothers and sisters in 1920. After her first husband Louis Cannon died in 1937 and their child Louise was born in Chicago on December 12, 1937, Jacoba van Oosterhout returned to her mother in Harrison. During her marriage to Casey Dirks she had three more children: Dennis, Marie and Patricia. Louise Cannon married Leo Pintens and continued to live in Harrison. Dennis Dirks became a priest in 1972 and went to Milwaukee. Marie and Patricia Dirks got married and both left for Jackson, Wisconsin.

When Jacoba died in 1964, Casey Dirks left for Cudahy, Wisconsin 450 miles south-east on Lake Michigan,

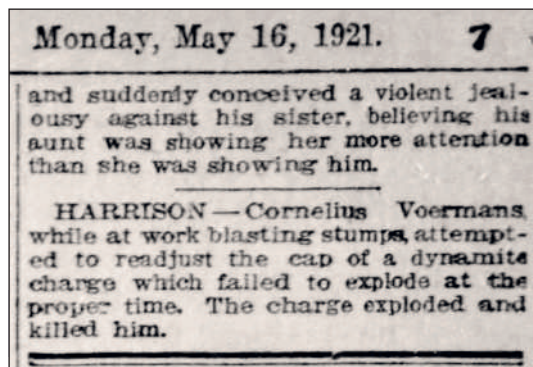
Cornelis de Bruijn (Casey or Brencha, 1889-1921)

The unmarried Cornelis de Bruijn emigrated from Kapelstraat 2 along with the family of Petrus Dirks from Rotterdam to New York on the Potsdam on March 8, 1913. They were not only neighbors in Oudenbosch, but Cornelis de Bruijn was also a cousin of Petrus Dirks. Their mothers were sisters.

Cornelis de Bruijn was born on July 7, 1889 as the second of the five sons of Johannes de Bruijn (*Hoeven 1855) and Jacoba Potters (*Hoeven 1853). His older brother was Johannes (*Oudenbosch 1888). After Cornelis came

Adrianus (*Oudenbosch 1891) and Antonius (*Oudenbosch 1892).

Antonius had already died in 1895, and the next son who was born in 1896 was named after him.



Wisconsin State Journal of May 16, 1921.



The village center of Harrison in 1934.

(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)



The village center of Harrison in 2019.

(Photo collection G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin, US)





*The Harrison Archery Company around 1915. Above all it was a social club. Note the keg of beer in the foreground. Standing from left to right: Leo Pintens (*Burght (B) 1892), Con Voermans (*Oudenbosch 1882), Joe Boeijkens (*Burght (B) 1861), Guust Den Tenter (*Hulst 1881), John Voermans (*Oudenbosch 1885), John Swan (*Chicago 1893), Casey de Bruijn (*Oudenbosch 1889) and Hans van der Voort (*Haaren 1899). Sitting from left to right: Pete Brekelmans (*Loon op Zand 1875), Emiel Verbist (*Hulst 1892), Adrian van der Voort (*Haaren 1896), Con Winker and Alfons van Strijdonk (*Burght (B) 1897).*

(Photo collection G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin, US)

Casey de Bruijn went to Harrison to work for Cornelis Voermans, who had always lived opposite him in the Kapelstraat. When Casey was granted citizenship in 1918, he was stationed as a soldier at Camp Grant in Illinois. The work at Cornelis Voermans consisted of, among other things, removing the stumps that remained after the loggers had finished their work. This was done with dynamite. On one occasion in 1921, the ignition failed and when Casey tried to fix it, the dynamite exploded and he was killed. In a report in the Wisconsin State Journal of May 16, 1921 it was wrongly claimed that Con Voermans was the victim of the accident.

Adrianus Dirks (Adrian, 1887-1979) and wife

Johanna Roozen (1887-1927)

Adrianus Dirks was the youngest son of Johannes Dirks and Johanna Potters. He was born on February 26, 1887 at Bosschendijk 112 in Oudenbosch. In 1909 Adrianus, then 22 years old, moved to Bornem in Belgium. What he was going to do there is unclear.



Jan Roozen of Gors 54 Hoeven in 1930.

(Photo collection D. Voermans, Oud Gastel)

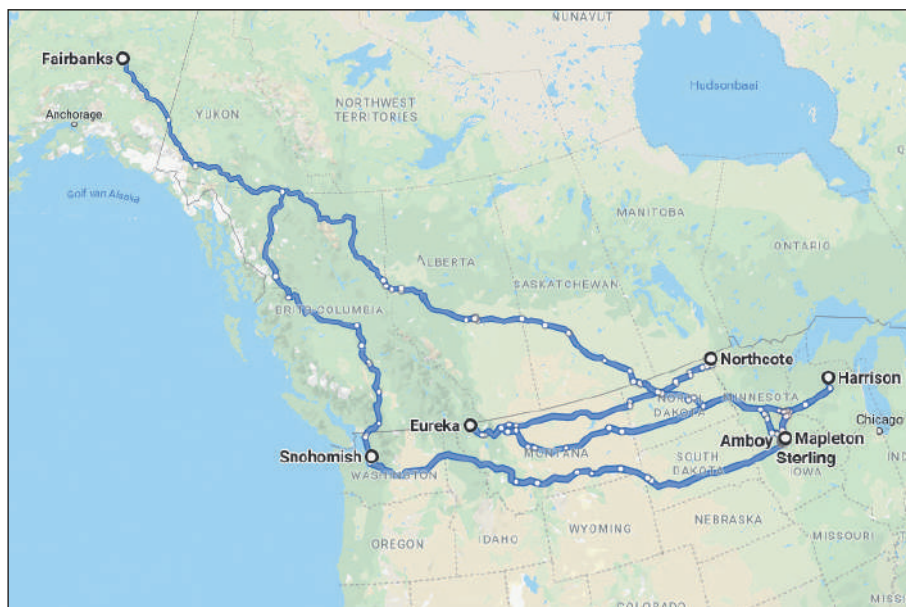
Johanna Roozen was a daughter of Johannis Roozen (*Gastel 1851) and Levina Adriana Kuijstermans (*Hoeven 1859). She was born at Gors 54 on December 6, 1887, the fifth of a total of seven children. After the death of Levina Kuijstermans, on April 23, 1894, Johannis married his 19 year younger maid, Johanna Zagers (*Hoeven 1870). A further eleven children were born from this marriage. After gaining employment in Oud Gastel and Roosendaal, amongst others, Johanna Roozen left Hoeven for good on March 6, 1914, moving to Edegem in Belgium.

She married Adrianus Dirks on



The cemetery in Harrison in 1934.

(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)



The whereabouts of Adrianus Dirks after his emigration from the Kapelstraat in Oudenbosch.

April 2, 1914, presumably in Belgium, and two days later they boarded the Finland in Antwerp with the final destination of Northcote, Minnesota where their friend Leo Pauls lived. On July 21, 1915, their first child, Johanna Maria (Mary), was born. Then they moved to Eureka, Lincoln, Montana where Adrianus (Adrian) was registered in 1917. At the insistence of his brother Petrus Dirks, Adrianus and Johanna moved to Harrison that same year.

Adrianus bought a piece of land from his brother there and built a house on Sandhill Road in the direction of Bundy. He had a few cows and worked in the woods, but also for different farmers. In 1925 Adrian became an American citizen. His wife Johanna Roozen died in 1927. The children Mary (*1915), John (*1917), Peter (*1920), Casey (*1921), Albert (*1924) and Gerard (*1925) were then placed at the St. Joseph orphanage in Superior Douglas, Wisconsin.

Adrian lived in Sterling, Blue Earth, Minnesota between 1930 and 1940. He then went to work in Alaska. In 1951 he remarried Esther Lily Conn in Fairbanks, Alaska and lived for a while in Snohomish, Washington. He later returned to Minnesota and stayed in a nursing home in Mapleton. Adrianus died on August 23, 1979, aged 92, in Amboy, Blue Earth, Minnesota.

Gerardus Roozen, the brother of Johanna Roozen, who emigrated with his family to Northcote, Minnesota in 1915, did not move to Harrison. His life story is therefore described in the chapter "Other destinations".

The last links

After the Germans had torpedoed the American ship Lusitania in May 1915, there were hardly any passenger ships from Europe to the US until the truce on November 11, 1918. Only in April 1920 three more Hoeven families went to Harrison.

Cornelis van Rijen (Con van Ryen, 1876-1949) and

Catharina Brans (Catherine, 1879-1937) with their children

Cornelis (Casey, 1905-1982)

Petronella (Nell, 1906-1986)

Marinus (Mike, 1908-1979)

Bernardus (Nort, 1910-2001)

Maria (Marie, 1911-1984)

Johannes (John, 1912-2003)

Petrus (Pete, 1916-1989)

Jacobus (Jake, 1919-1998)

Catharina Brans was a daughter of Bernardus Brans (*Hoeven 1840) and Petronella Mensen (*Oudenbosch 1841). At the time of Catharina's birth on December 17, 1879, they lived in their new home at Gors 95. Between 1905 and 1908, Jacobus van Meel also lived there as a servant. He emigrated to the US from the Netherlands in 1908. Additionally, two of Catharina's aunts, sisters Henderina (*Hoeven 1842) and Catharina Brans (*Hoeven 1845), had already emigrated to the US in 1867.

Catharina married Cornelis van Rijen on October 10, 1904 in Hoeven. Cornelis was a son of Cornelis van Rijen (*Oudenbosch 1848) and Maria Wilhelmina Verschuren (*Hoeven 1849), who at the time of Cornelis' birth on May 3, 1876 had lived at Kapelstraat 12, Oudenbosch.

After the death of father Cornelis van Rijen (senior) in 1880, mother Maria Verschuren was married to neighbor and widower Petrus Voermans of Kapelstraat 1 in Oudenbosch in 1892. Cornelis van Rijen (junior) grew up in

Not afraid of anything

Kaat Brans was a feisty aunt. She was unfazed by anything or anyone. If Kaat thought she was in the right, it was best to back down and give in. She was the wrong woman to cross. On one occasion a couple of cows were walking on her property. The person responsible who had been warned by Kaat on numerous occasions did not respond so she threw a pitchfork at him. Unintentionally a cow was hit in its leg and had to be put down.

(From: Brans)





*Just before Cornelis van Rijen's family left for America, this family photo was taken in April 1920 in front of Jan Brans' home, Gors 71 in Hoeven. In the last row from left to right: Piet Voermans (*1880), Willem Brans (*1877), Piet Brans (*1896), Peer van Rijen (*1874), Marijn van Rijen (*1906), Kees Brans (*1894), Marijn Jongeneelen (*1872) and Kees van Rijsbergen (*1896). Second row from behind from left to right: Johanna Brans-Willemse (*1887), Johanna Brans-van Zitteren (*1877), Cornelia Brans-van Rijsbergen (*1882), Paulina Brans-Derene (*1874), Anna (Mie) Brans-Houtepen (*1867), Geertruida Brans (*1906), Wilhelmina Brans (*1900), Petronella Brans (*1900), Petronella Jongeneelen (*1898) and Adrianus Kalis with species. Third row from behind from left to right: Maria van Rijen-Verschuren (*1849), Petronella van Rijen (*1906), Maria van Rijen (*1911), Catharina van Rijen- Brans (*1879) with son Jacobus (*1919), John van Rijen (*1912), Cornelis van Rijen (*1876) with son Piet (*1916), Nord van Rijen (*1910), Mike van Rijen (*1908), Johannes Brans (*1868), Cornelis Brans (*1885) and Adrianus Brans (*1874). First names row left to right: Cornelis van Rijen (*1905), Willem Brans (*1898), Rom Brans (*1904), Jan Brans (*1910), Rien Brans (*1912), Nord Brans (*1911) and Toon Brans (*1913). (Photo collection D. Brugel-Brans, Sprundel)*

the family of Petrus Voermans from the age of sixteen. Three sons of Petrus Voermans, from his first marriage to Anna Maria Dirks, emigrated to Wisconsin in 1908, 1911 and 1912, respectively. Daughter Anna Cornelia Voermans emigrated to Canada with Jacobus van Meel in 1912. After their wedding, Cornelis van Rijen and Catharina Brans went to live at

Hoeveners working for Al Capone

In the period of America's prohibition, when the use and production of alcohol were prohibited, Al Capone focused, among other things, on the illegal production of alcohol. At the end of 1926 he found a nice location for this production in Harrison, Wisconsin at the end of a dead end road, the Van Ryen Road (now Keg Road), hidden among the woods. Con van Ryen and Catherine Brans lived on that little road with their eight children, as the road name indicated. At the end of that road stood a vacant farmhouse, built 27 years earlier by Bernard Haring and last inhabited by Case van der Sanden, which was converted by Al Capone and his men into an alcohol distillery. All necessary equipment was supplied by train to the station in Harrison.

The people in the village were told that they were going to drill for oil. The production staff came from elsewhere, but the local residents were hired by Al Capone under strict instructions to keep their mouths shut. In return, their wages would continue to be paid and their families taken care of even if they were arrested. Martin van der Sanden, the oldest son of Case van der Sanden and Adriana Hoeks, lived on a farm next to the alcohol distillery at the end of the street. He got a job as a stoker and was asked to close the street with a barrier. Another cart track to the distillery was closed with tree stumps by Bill Kaatz and John Swan. Con van Ryen was hired by the organization as a carrier. Visitors could park on his yard and were then transported further by son John with a horse and cart. Con also ran

Gors 93. Here Cornelis Bernardus was born on July 24, 1905. The family lived in the Kapelstraat in Oudenbosch from 1906 to 1909. Petronella Maria (*1906) and Marinus Bernardus (*1908) were born there.

They then went to live in Catharina's parental home at Gors 95 where Bernardus Marinus (*1910), Maria Cornelia (*1911), Johannes (*1912), Petrus (*1916) and Jacobus (*1919) were born. Cornelis van Rijen had a small farm and worked at the sugar factory during the fall.

Inspired by the supposedly positive stories of their family members, Cornelis and Catharina decided to try their luck with their eight children on the other side of the ocean. On April 14, 1920, they departed from Antwerp citing their final destination as that of Cornelis' stepbrother (on the passenger list, however, it said "brother-in-law") Jan Voermans in Harrison.

Regarding the departure of the family of Cornelis (Nilleke) van Rijen and Catharina (Kaat) Brans to America, the Brans family wrote in *Reunion of the Brans family October 14, 2000* the following:

"Due to the poor economic conditions in the Netherlands these days, many



errands for the staff, such as collecting snuff. He received two dollars per ride for that. Con Voermans and Nort van Ryen built a pump building at a tributary of Pine Creek to pump water to the distillery. Raw materials were supplied from Rhinelander at night by Adrian Voermans and Bill Kaatz. The only two local workers in the production were the distillers Ary Amelse and his brother-in-law Martin van der Sanden. The production was four to five barrels of 190 liters per day, with a value of 500 dollars per barrel. The alcohol was transported by truck to a shed just outside of Chicago. John van Ryen, then thirteen years old, helped to put the barrels of alcohol on a sled before he went to school. Two horses were needed to pull the sled to the end of the Van Ryen Road to be transferred to a truck. Pete van Ryen, ten years old, was deployed to warn if it was safe to pull the sled with barrels to the truck. On his skis, he came down the slope and gave a sign that it was safe and that the truck had already arrived. On February 27, 1927, the federal police and the criminal investigation department invaded the distillery. Ary Amelse fled during this raid and was shot in the leg by the federal police. He managed to get home, but he had to go to the hospital in Tomahawk six months later to have his leg amputated. The factory was dismantled and the alcohol made unusable for consumption. A barrel of alcohol went to the hospital in Tomahawk. Apart from the five operators in the distillery, no one was fined.

(Back and forth translated and summarized text from Voermans)

people from Brabant go to America to build a new life. They are encouraged by favorable reports from pioneers who have already established themselves there. These were usually groups of people who had settled close together in the new country. In this way, the Dutch language could be preserved and spoken for a long time. The Catholics preferred to go to the northeast of the state of Wisconsin. Nilleke and especially Kaat also explore this route. They made plans to move. They anticipate a better future for their families in America. The entire family is gathered and a nice remembrance photo is made in front of the side wall of brother Jan's house. This is the moment the Van Rijen family, a family with eight children, is on its way to America. The oldest, Cees, is 15 years old and the youngest, Sjaak, almost 1. All packed and ready to go they leave, seen off by brother Jan and other relatives and friends. With the cart towering high the family first leaves by train from Oudenbosch to Rotterdam. Because the planned departure by steamboat from Rotterdam has been canceled, the family takes another train and leaves via Oudenbosch and Roosendaal to Antwerp. They bivouac in the port of



The church of Harrison in 1934.

(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)

Antwerp for a week. And then finally the family leaves, heading for the unknown country”.

The family settled near Harrison. Father Con, as he was called in Harrison, set out with his two eldest sons to make money by chopping wood. Mother was left alone with the girls and the little boys in the wooden house. It must have been hard for Catherine to live in the forest, among wolves and bears. She got homesick, but there was no going back. After a while their farming became successful, and they built a new house and also bought land.

Con and Catherine had their cottage with farmlands and some barns on Van Ryen Road, which was later changed into Keg Road, because of Al Capone's illegal distillery that was founded at the end of Van Ryen Road. Catharina Brans died in 1937 and Cornelis van Rijen in 1949.

The eldest son **Cornelis**, called Casey in the US, was just under fifteen years old when he emigrated with his parents. In 1939 he married Faye White (*1917) from Cassian, Oneida, Wisconsin, a little further up north. They went to live in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. There they had two daughters Cornelia





The church of Harrison in 2018.

(Photo collection J. van Ryen, Greensboro, North Carolina, US)

(*1938) and Doris (*1944). Cornelia married Rodney Dorski in 1958 and Doris in 1964 with Richard van der Voort. Casey van Ryen died in 1982 and his wife Faye White in 1985. Both were still living in Tomahawk at the time.

In 1927 daughter **Petronella** (Nell) married Cornelis (Con) Groothausen (*Chicago, Illinois 1894), who was twelve years older. Shortly after their wedding they moved to Tony, a town located 60 miles west of Harrison in Wisconsin. Their nine children, six boys and three girls, were born there. They were given the following names: Gertrude (*1928), Cornelius (*1930), Peter (*1931), Catherine (*1933), Anthony (*1935), Bernadette (*1938), Phillip (*1940), Hilary (Larry) (*1943) and Joseph (*1948).

Nell van Ryen died in Tony in 1986 and her husband Con Groothausen in 1968.

Carpenter **Marinus** (Mike) had four children with his wife Gertrude Raatz (*Milwaukee, Wisconsin 1915): Dorothy (*1934), Harold (*1935), Marian (*1937) and Margaret (*1938). They were all born in Tomahawk. Around 1956



The family of Cornelis van Ryen and Catharina Brans in Harrison around 1925. Front row from left to right: Pete, mother Catharina Brans, Jacobus and father Cornelis van Ryen. Back row from left to right: Marie, Casey, Bernard, Mike, Nell and John van Ryen. (Photo collection J. van Ryen, Greensboro, North Carolina, US)

the family moved to Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, about 190 miles south. Mike built a house there in East Bristol. He also did that for his son Harold and daughter Marian, as well as for his nephew Dave van der Sanden who had also moved to East Bristol. Son and heir Harold van Ryen married Beatrice Hauser (*East Bristol, Wisconsin 1935) in 1958 and they had three children: Karen (*1960), Anette (*1962) and Ronald (*1964), all of whom were born in Columbus near Sun Prairie.

Mike van Ryen died in Sun Prairie on March 6, 1979 and Gertrude Raatz on October 29, 2002.

Bernardus (Nord) married Margaret (Peg) DeWeert (*Parrish, Wisconsin 1920) in 1936. During the first years of their marriage they lived in Harrison. Then they went to live with her ill mother in nearby Parrish. They had a son Donald (*1937) and four daughters: Marilyn (*1939), Nancy (*1941), Janice (*1943) and Kathleen (*1950). Bernardus and Margaret continued to live in Parrish until their death in 2001 and 2004, respectively. Donald had two sons: Michael, who was born in 1963 and died in 1986 and Curt, who was born in 1966 and lived for only one day. Their only daughter Deidre was born in 1969





*John van Ryen and Ruth Miller with their daughter Annie van Ryen (*1937) in Harrison in 1940.*

(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)

and married Jan Vergeer from Leiden in 1995. They had no children.

In 1930 the second daughter **Maria** (Marie) married Petrus (Pete) van der Sanden (*Hoeven 1905), who at the age of fifteen had emigrated from Hoeven to Harrison, together with his parents and the Van Rijen family. Their life story is described in the section on Pete van der Sanden.

In 1934, at the age of 21, **Johannes** (John) van Ryen married Ruth Miller (*Parrish,

Wisconsin 1913). They settled in Harrison and had four children there: Annie (*1937), Jack (*1941), Joice (*1943) and Gerald (*1953). Father John worked for the railways and in forestry. He later worked at Owens Illinois Paper Mill in Tomahawk. Ruth worked at the school in Harrison. John van Ryen died at the age of 90 in 2003 and Ruth Miller two years later.

Daughter Annie married Lawrence (Buss) Schoone in 1957, a grandson of Pieter Schoone and Wilhelmina van Ham who had emigrated here from Fijnaart in 1915. His son Jack married Marie Schoone (a sister of Lawrence) in 1960. They had a daughter Gwenn and two sons Todd and Terry. Daughter Joice married Bob Leonhard in 1963. Gerald, the youngest son of John and Ruth, married Marilyn Quinn in 1972 and they had three daughters.

Petrus (Pete) van Ryen married Margaret Rell in 1941. They had a daughter Alice (*1941) and a son Cornelis (*1943). Alice married James Meisenhiemer in 1963; they had three daughters. Cornelis married Blanche Roberts in 1961. Cornelis and Blanche had three daughters and two sons.

Pete van Ryen died in 1989 in Tomahawk and his wife Margaret Rell in 2010.



Here from Holland

--Leader Staff

Enjoying a reunion after 59 years are, from left, first cousins John Brans, Marinus Brans, Peter, Bernard, John, Casey and Jake Van Ryen and Marie Vander Sanden. The Branses are of Holland. Not pictured is another cousin, Nell Grouthausen.

Cousins Visit After 59 Years

First cousins who last saw each other 59 years ago in Holland are having a reunion this week at the Peter C. Van Ryen home on route four.

law, Mr. and Mrs. Orin Weber, Sun Prairie, went to Holland for a visit in 1978.

The Branses do not speak English, but there was no language difficulty as Gerrie, 21,

A local newspaper reported about the visit of Marinus and Johannes Brans from Hoeven to their cousins, children of the emigrated Van Ryen-Brans family, in 1979.

(Collection D. Brugel-Brans, Sprundel)

Jacobus (Jacob or Jake) van Ryen, the youngest of all Van Ryen's children, married Gertrude Elain Loka in 1940 (*Bundy, Wisconsin 1923). They had ten children: Phyllis Ann (*1941), Carol Lynn (*1942), Mary Lou (*1943), Jean Ellen (*1945), James Joseph (Jim) (*1947), Marsha (*1949, did not even live for a day), Jeffrey John (Jeff) (*1954), Jay Allen (*1955), Susan Mary (*1956) and Karen Jo (*1958). They were all born in Tomahawk Hospital.

Jake and Gertrude continued to live on the parental farm and continued the business until the mid-1960s. Then they sold all the cows. In the meantime, Jake also worked at a local paper factory. They continued to live on the farm until they died. The farm with all its 40 acres of land is still property of the heirs in 2019. The land is being rented by other farmers. The house and the other buildings are used as a holiday home for the family. They organize a reunion at least twice a year.

Jake van Ryen died in 1998 in the Sacred Heart hospital in Tomahawk and Gertrude Loka in 2003 in the Riverview Nursinghome, also in Tomahawk. Despite the fact that all the children had found their niche in the US, the oldest children in particular had the desire to return to the Netherlands one day.

In *Reunion of the Brans family October 14, 2000* Diny Brugel-Brans wrote as follows:

‘After 58 years, in 1978, Rien (Mike) van Rijen set foot on Dutch soil again together with his wife, daughter and son-in-law. Via father Van der Pol, they had succeeded in finding the Brans family. The first contact is with cousin Rom, but soon he also sees his cousins Jan and Rien Brans and other relatives again. They view the house where they had lived. Strangely enough, almost nothing has changed in the last fifty-eight years. The following year their cousins Jan and Rien come over to America with their wives. They stay here for 4 weeks and much of the Dutch language comes back mainly to the oldest cousins. Nord also visited the Netherlands with his wife Margaret in 1980. Nord talks about steam engines and flying machines (he speaks the Dutch language better every day). He enjoys seeing his family and birthplace again. He visits the church in Hoeven, where his name is found in the baptismal book. His enthusiastic response "that's me, that's me" shows how much he likes it. They visit the port of Antwerp, where Nord points to the statue where he had stood 60 years ago, before he left for America with his family’.



The home of the children of Jacobus van Ryen in 2018 at the place where Cornelis van Ryen and Catharina Brans settled in Harrison in 1920.

(Photo collection J. van Ryen, Greensboro, North Carolina, US)

Unexpected visitors from the US

by Piet Lauwerijssen

On a Thursday morning in July 2017 I received a phone call from the owner of De Verborgten Kamer (The Hidden Chamber), the former postcard and office supplies store opposite the church in Hoeven. She told me that there were six Americans present in the store asking if she knew where Cornelis van Rijen had lived, just before he had emigrated to the US in 1920. As luck would have it, I had been trying to find just that during my research into the Hoeven emigrants the week before. So my answer was: "Yes, I do know that. I'll be there in a minute". When I arrived at the store, the six Americans turned out to be three grandchildren of Cornelis Van Rijen and Catharina Brans with their spouses. All three were children of Jacobus van Ryen, the youngest descendant of the emigrated family. After a Rhine cruise they ended up in Rotterdam and they only had half a day left before flying back to the US. The only thing they knew was that their grandfather

and grandmother and their family had left from Hoeven. So they took a taxi and arrived at the church in Hoeven. They were warmly welcomed by the ladies of De Verborgten Kamer and I explained to them that I was in the middle of investigating the emigrants from Hoeven. I then drove them to the places where their father and grandparents were born and lived, the Gors in Hoeven and the Kapelstraat in Oudenbosch. They were very pleased that I could show them all of that so quickly. However,

Grant Voermans, a great-grandson of Johannes Voermans, and his wife Bobbi visiting De Pastorij in Hoeven in April 2019.

*(Photo collection
P. Lauwerijssen, Hoeven)*





*In front of the store De Verborgen Kamer in St. Janstraat 71a in Hoeven, from left to right: Marie and her husband Jim van Ryen, Silvia and Alwine from De Verborgen Kamer, Piet Lauwerijssen, at the back Mariann and her husband Jef van Ryen and in the front Karen Schiltz-van Ryen and her husband Kevin Schiltz.
(Photo collection K. Schiltz-van Ryen, Harrison, Wisconsin, US)*

the time was too short to show the rest of Hoeven and Oudenbosch. This visit provided me with a contact address in Harrison, the place where so many people from Hoeven had settled. On top of that, those people were not unknown to them.

This unexpected visit did not end there.

Back in the US these descendants of Cornelis and Catharina told other grandchildren about their experiences. And in the middle of November I

received a request from Julie Ann Wolfgram-Dorn, granddaughter of Bernardus van Rijen and Margaret DeWeert, to meet me and tell her about her roots when she came to the Netherlands on December 27, 2017. We were better prepared for that visit and together with the Brans and Van Rijen family from Hoeven and Oudenbosch we were able to show them the sights in Hoeven and Oudenbosch. It was a successful day for both the families from the Netherlands and the US.

Then, in April 2019, Grant Voermans and his wife Bobbi came to Hoeven and Oudenbosch. Grant is a great-grandson of Johannes Voermans (*Oudenbosch 1885). As an expert on the history of Harrison, he was very helpful in gathering all the information about the Hoeveners living there.

Cornelis van der Sanden (Red Case, 1865-1949) and wife

Adriana Hoeks (1871-1948) with their children

Johanna (Ann, 1900-1972)

Maria (Mary, 1901-1977)

Martinus (Martin, 1902-1987)

Johannes (John, 1903-1960)

Petrus (Pete, 1905-1980)

Jacobus (Jacob, 1906-1964)

Adrianus (Adrian, 1907-1985)

Cornelis (1909-1987)

Cornelis van der Sanden was born in Oudenbosch on March 21, 1865, as the son of Martien van der Sanden and Johanna van Rijsbergen. Adriana Hoeks was born on August 7, 1871 in Hoeven at Hofstraat 23 as the daughter of Johannes Hoeks and Antonia Schrauwen. She was a sister of Adrianus Hoeks who emigrated to Canada in 1912.

Cornelis and Adriana got married in Hoeven on January 31, 1899 and went to live at De Hoop 1 in the Sint Maartenspolder. They had ten children there: Johanna Maria (*1900), Maria Cornelia (*1901), Martinus Johannes (*1902), Johannes Martinus (*1903), Petrus Aloysius (*1905), Jacobus Cornelis (*1906), Adrianus Cornelis (*1907), Cornelis Johannes (*1909), Cornelia Adriana (*1910) and Bartholomeus Martinus (*1913). The youngest daughter Cornelia Adriana died within two months after her birth. His son Bartholomeus Martinus was hit by a train and died at the railway crossing at De Hoop on March 10, 1918, when he was only four years old. This accident gripped the parents with so much grief that they decided to move to the parental home of Cornelis at Kapelstraat 4 in Oudenbosch. That farm had already been his property after the deaths of his parents and the buyout of his brothers and sisters. They lived there until April 1920 when the entire family emigrated to





Cornelis van der Sanden and Adriana Hoeks with their two daughters Johanna and Maria around 1903.

(Photo collection heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven)

Harrison. The main reason for their emigration was the tragic death of their youngest son, Bartholomeus. The images stayed with father Cornelis for a long time. Another important reason for their move was that boys from the age of 18 had to do military service for two years. They were chosen by drawing lots, but they could have their conscription performed by someone else in return for payment. Cornelis, being a father of six sons, was highly opposed to the idea. In addition, neighbor Johannes Dirks, who had already

been to the US twice, told him about the opportunities in Wisconsin where many Dutch people, including their former neighbors, the Voermans, were living.

The couple boarded the Kroonland in Antwerp with their eight remaining children on April 14, 1920 and left to join their friend Cornelis Voermans in Harrison as their final destination. Before setting off for the US, they had already been exchanging letters. This is clearly shown in the archives of the Voermans family in Wisconsin.

On December 3, 1919, Cornelis van der Sanden asked Con Voermans if he

could help him find a good farm. From Piet Voermans, a brother of Con who was still living in Kapelstraat, he heard that there was a good farm for sale. In a previous letter he had already told Con about his children and his good financial position. He wanted help with the search

— Te Hoeven is het 4-jarig zoontje van G. v. d. Sanden onder den trein geraakt, komende van Rozendaal. Het knaapje was oogenblikkelijk dood.

A small message in a local newspaper reporting the train accident that involved Bartholomeus van der Sanden in 1918.

(Collection heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven)



*The dance hall in Harrison in 1934.
(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs,
Fresno, California, US)*

for land and a good farm so that he could buy it immediately upon arrival and get started right away. He relied on the knowledge of Con Voermans. He also wrote that the following week he would go to the notary to prepare the sale of all his land and farm. In addition, he would sow the soil in the spring so that his brothers could then sell the harvest. He also reported that Piet Voermans wanted to move to Wisconsin but that his wife did not want to. But Wouter van Oosterhout's family did want to join him and come to Wisconsin and he asked Con to write to them too. Things were not going well in the Netherlands. There were many poor people and the sugar factory in Oudenbosch had already been closed and demolished.

Van der Sanden wrote an urgent plea to Con Voermans on December 24, 1919 to help him anyway. Even though he had \$ 50,000 it was not easy to emigrate. He asked for a letter signed by the mayor of Harrison to serve as proof that he had bought or rented a farm for him and that the mayor would be willing to sponsor him and his family. Cornelis was hoping to leave Rotterdam on April 9, 1920. He concluded with the words "Con, I'm waiting for a positive answer. Many greetings from your friend".

The letter of January 24, 1920 was much more cheerful. On January 23, he had received a reply from Con Voermans. He was working hard to get Cornelis and his family to Harrison. Cornelis thanked him extensively on behalf of his wife and children for everything he had already done and would still do for him. The proposed farm seemed to be a good choice and it was close to a church. He would definitely buy this one. He then mentioned the names of his children and their birth dates. His land was sold and on March 10 his house and furniture went on sale. They were to depart from Rotterdam on April 9. He also asked if he should bring anything else. He was planning



to take ten pairs of clogs. However, that was not going to be easy. He thought it also worth mentioning that there was a catastrophe taking place in Oost-Brabant. The Meuse had burst its banks and thousands of houses and farms had been destroyed by the water. More than fifty cities were under water, which reached up to three feet. He wrote about Piet Voermans who might still be coming next year. "His wife would have agreed to come now if it had not been for their baby who was very sick and the chances of its survival were low". He ended his letter with "Write me back again for the last time. We will see you soon".

Although Cornelis van der Sanden had prepared things well in Wisconsin, he was unable to leave Rotterdam on April 9. In fact, a strike by dockworkers had been taking place in the harbor since February 1920. It is unclear whether he had been informed about the strike in time and therefore traveled straight to Antwerp or that they first traveled to Rotterdam, like the Van Rijen family. In any case, they left Antwerp on April 14 with ten pairs of clogs and 100,000 guilders in their pockets. A fairly large sum to make a good start in the US.

The crossing with the crowded Kroonland did not go smoothly. They were confronted with an unusually rough sea. The captain experienced great difficulty trying to go forwards instead of backwards. One day they merely covered five miles. They finally arrived in New York on April 29. Normally, this voyage would have taken just 10 to 12 days. On Ellis Island they had to stay in quarantine for another three days because son Jan had scabs on his head. They were close to being sent back to the Netherlands.

From Ellis Island they could take the train to "Wish-consin", which was probably the only English they knew. That trip was not too bad. They stopped at Niagara Falls, but were not allowed to get off the train. Then they went to Chicago where they had to transfer to the train to Pelican Lake, where they arrived on May 5th at 5 a.m. It was still rather cold and they were some patches of ice on the lake. They got warmer when Cornelis started talking in French to a person called Larsen. He owned the sawmill in Jeffries, later Bundy, which was west of Pelican Lake. Larsen treated them to a hot breakfast in a nearby hotel.

The railway to Harrison was a narrow passage between the trees. The children were warned not to put their hands and heads out of the window. At a switch point Martin van der Sanden and one of his sisters jumped off the train to wash their faces in a lake for the first time in days. At half past eleven they arrived in Harrison, where Con Voermans was waiting with his car.

They stayed with Con Voermans for three weeks and then bought the farm from Bernard Haring, which was later named the Keg Farm.

A few letters from Cornelis van der Sanden have been preserved in the archive of the Van de Pas-Hoeks family, which he had written to his Hoeks in-laws in Hoeven.



The family of Cornelis van der Sanden and Adriana Hoeks shortly before their departure for America in 1920 in front of their home at Kapelstraat 4 in Oudenbosch. Standing from left to right: Adrianus, Johanna, Marinus, Petrus, Johannes, Maria and Jacobus van der Sanden. Sitting: Cornelis van der Sanden, Cornelis (junior) and Adriana Hoeks. (Photo collection G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin, US)

The first letter dates from May 9, 1920, the day the Van der Sanden family arrived in Harrison. In this letter he told about the journey and mentioned that his three oldest sons could start working at Con Voermans immediately. He himself set off by car with Con Voermans to find a suitable farm. He also said that Cornelis van Rijen had already bought a piece of land of 40 'gemet' (44 acres). He himself was looking for a farm of around 160 to 200 'gemet' (175 to 220 acres) in the vicinity of Harrison, so that he could learn from other Dutch farmers how farming was being done there as it was completely different to farming in the Netherlands. If the potatoes were planted in June, that would be considered early in Harrison. "It is usually very good clay soil here, but hilly like everywhere in America, similar to Bosschenhoofd". There are hardly any workers. Everyone has his own farm. Some farmers do work for another farmer "for big money". "That is why it is so good for a farmer with his own people to farm here". The food was also much better than in the Netherlands. They had just eaten venison. Deer were plentiful and he hoped to "get one" for himself.

Another letter is from June 11, 1920. It was written by one of the children of





The facade of Kapelstraat 4 in Oudenbosch in 2018. The front is almost the same as in the photo in 1920. (Photo collection heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven)

Cornelis van der Sanden. In it he writes mainly about the farm that Cornelis bought. Like most immigrants, he did not buy 40 'gemet' (44 acres) of forest to fully exploit it for himself. "You can earn more with that. But our father did not want that".

Cornelis bought a beautiful farm of 160 'gemet' (175 acres). Half of it was arable land and the other half was forest. On the farm they had twelve cows, ten heifers, nine calves and four pigs, some chickens and other farm animals. "They also have all kinds of machines here, a mower, a hay rake, a baler, a steam powered thresher and so on". There were also milking machines, but they did not have one yet. They were too expensive if you had enough people to milk by hand.

It was further described how the forest was cleared, "which generates good money from the wood". The roots and stumps were removed from the soil with dynamite.

The letter of August 5, 1920 is again from Cornelis himself. He wrote that he and four other farmers had been traveling by car for four days. They had seen a lot and, among others, had visited the Witte Paters (the White Fathers) from Heeswijk in Greenbay. There he had met "Lauw the Shepherd" (Laurentius Adrianus de Herder (*Dinteloord 1864)) from Oud Gastel, who was a lay brother. They had also visited Jan Hermus (*Klundert 1870), a former baker from Zevenbergen. He owned 350 'gemet' (385 acres) of arable land 75 (82 acres) of which still had to be mowed. His son Rudolf immediately

Even more wooden clogs

Before Cornelis van der Sanden left for America, he was asked to bring ten pairs of clogs which he had managed to do. In August 1920, Cornelis wrote that he had been able to exchange those beautiful yellow clogs from Van den Bergh for two grass calves of 50 dollars each. A successful business it turned out to be. He therefore asked his in-laws to ask Van de Bergh to send him another dozen pairs. He was more than willing to pay double the price for it.

However, whether it came to be, we do not know.

recognized Cornelis van der Sanden. In De Pere they had also visited many farmers, originally from Noord- and Zuid-Holland, who received them warmly. "Those farmers were far ahead of them. They mowed the grain with the tractor and some of them had more than 550 to 1,100 acres of wheat". Even the telephone conversation he had with his wife and children from Marinette (250 hours from his house) had made a big impression on Cornelis.

Cornelis was called Red Case in the US because of his chestnut hair as he explained it.

Although Red Case had done well in the Netherlands, it did not go as well in the US. He planted 20 'gemet' (22 acres) of potatoes on the hills. He paid 3 dollars and 50 cents for about 40 liters (10 gallons) of seed potatoes but only received 50 cents per 40 liters (10 gallons) for the harvested potatoes. Cornelis lost all his capital in less than three years. The 100,000 guilders he had brought with him were worth \$ 40,000 with the exchange rate at the time. He had paid \$ 14,000 for his land and farm and lost \$ 26,000 in a short time. He and the children had to look for other work. Around 1923, the family moved to Little Chute, Wisconsin, 140 miles south. This was a settlement where many Dutch people had already been living and work was available in the paper industry.

The last preserved letter from Case van der Sanden is from May 15, 1928. In it he writes in great detail about what had happened to his son-in-law Adrian Amelse (married to daughter Marie). After a gunshot wound during the raid on the illegal distillery in February 1927, he suffered from an inflammation in his left leg, which eventually had to be amputated in October 1927. He was in great pain and came near his end a couple of times. Now he was home and things went a little better. He would get an artificial leg. Pete van der Sanden (the son of Cornelis) worked on the farm of Adrian Amelse, who was no longer able to do that himself. Despite everything, Adrian's wife Marie was doing fine. "She is getting big and fat and has four big, fat, healthy children" wrote





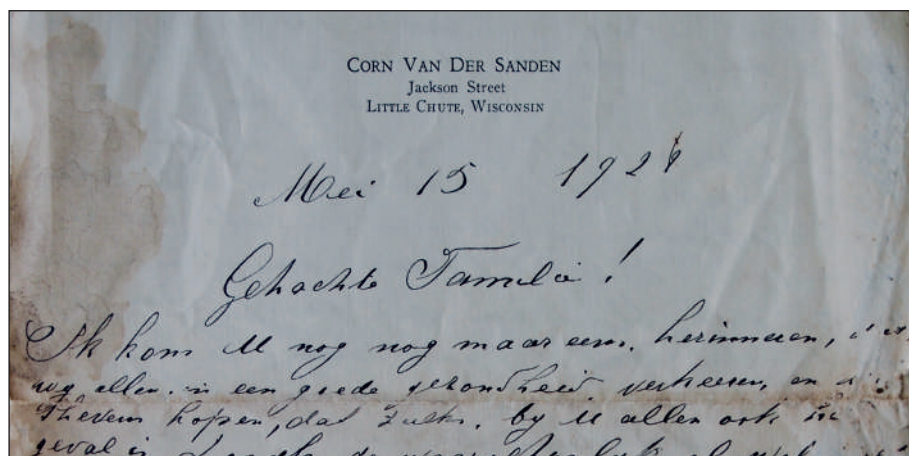
The ruins in 2018 of the farm that Cornelis van der Sanden bought in 1920 and in which Al Capone later established his distillery.

(Photo collection G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin, US)

the proud (grand)father. Meanwhile, his other daughter Jo had three children. He had also heard that Hoeven had appointed a new mayor. He commented: "There were presumably no enthusiasts in Hoeven because he is a stranger". He also had not forgotten about the construction of the new church in Hoeven, about which he wrote: "Jan, you will surely have to provide the land?"

A new \$ 150,000 Catholic school was built in Little Chute, which the parishioners had to pay themselves. There were seven nuns to teach 600 children. "It is teeming with little brats, here". There were at least 2,000 communicants and no Protestants.

Previously, on November 25, 1926, Rudolph Hermus wrote a letter from Little Chute. He was married to Johanna, the eldest daughter of Cornelis van der



Sanden. He thanked the Hoeks family at great length for taking good care of his father-in-law who had visited Hoeven and Oudenbosch earlier that year. Case van der Sanden returned to the Netherlands for the first time between May and November 1926. Five years later he made a similar journey.

On December 12, 1931 he returned from Rotterdam via New York to Little Chute.

Case van der Sanden moved to Appleton around 1946, six miles from Little Chute, and died there on June 22, 1949, at the age of 84. Adriana Hoeks died after a short illness in a hospital in Green Bay on October 14, 1948. Both are buried in Little Chute.

On September 17, 1923 **Johanna** (Ann) van der Sanden (*Hoeven 1900) married Rudolph Hermus (*Zevenbergen 1897), a son of baker Jan Hermus

(*Klundert 1870) and Petronella Hopmans (*Klundert 1870). Rudolph had emigrated with his parents from Zevenbergen to Wisconsin in 1916. Johanna probably knew him from her childhood when they both went to school in Zevenbergen.

Rudolph and Ann lived in Little Chute and had six children here: Cornelis (Casey) (*1926), Nellie (*1927), who joined the religious life as sister Mary Rudolph in Wheaton, Wisconsin in 1952, John C. (*1928), Jane Ann (*1929), Rudolph P. (Rudy) (*1932) and Margaret E. (*1935).

After a year of confinement to the sickbed Ann van der Sanden died on January 5, 1972 in Little Chute and was buried there in St. John Cemetery. Rudolph Hermus died on March 27, 1986.

Jesus! Mary! Joseph!



Sweet Jesus have mercy on the
soul of

ADRIANA HOEKS

wife of

CORNELIUS VANDER SANDEN

Born in Holland, August 7, 1871

Died October 14, 1948

"We have loved her during life, let
us not abandon her, until we have con-
ducted her by our prayers into the
house of the Lord."

St. Ambrose

A precious one from us has gone
A voice we loved is stilled
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.

Merciful Jesus grant her eternal rest.
(7 years and 7 quarantines)

Our Father

Hail Mary



Martin van der Sanden and Alida Swan and seven of their nine children. From left to right the children Mary Ann, Lorraine, Bernice, Martin (junior), John, Thomas and Alice van der Sanden in Harrison in 1940.

(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)

Maria (Mary) van der Sanden (*Hoeven 1901) married Adrian Amelse (*Chicago, Illinois 1895) on June 13, 1923 in Harrison. Around 1900 Adrian had moved to Harrison from Chicago together with his parents. He

worked on his father's farm. After their wedding, they bought land from the Federal Land Bank, built a home and a shed, and started their farm on Pine Creek Road. After his left leg had to be amputated in 1927 due to gangrene as a result of a bullet wound, they sold the farm and moved to Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

In 1930 they lived there with their five children, the twins Cornelius and Anthony (*1924), Rudolph (*1926), Dorothy (*1927) and Adriana (*1929). Adrian Amelse worked on a chicken farm. In 1940 they still lived in Eau Claire. At that time the family had expanded and they had five more sons: Gerald (*1931), Edward (*1933), John (*1936), Richard (*1938) and Lawrence (*1939). After that: Mary Ann (*1941), Elizabeth (*1942) and Peter (*1943) were born. In total they had 13 children.

Between 1948 and 1949, Adrian and Mary moved to Park Falls, Price, Wisconsin. When Adrian Amelse died in the Town of Ludington in 1956, he was in his second year as secretary and treasurer of the Ludington Creamery. Gerald and Edward Amelse were studying at the Saint Mary Seminary at that time.

Mary van der Sanden died on March 19, 1977 in the Sacred Hart Hospital in Eau Claire.

After his parents had moved to Little Chute with their youngest children around 1923 son **Martin** van der Sanden (*Hoeven 1902) remained behind at the farm in Harrison. He sold the cattle and everything else he could sell to pay the mortgage at the Bradley Bank in Tomahawk. He briefly worked as a lumberjack for one dollar a day, after which he also left for Little Chute. But

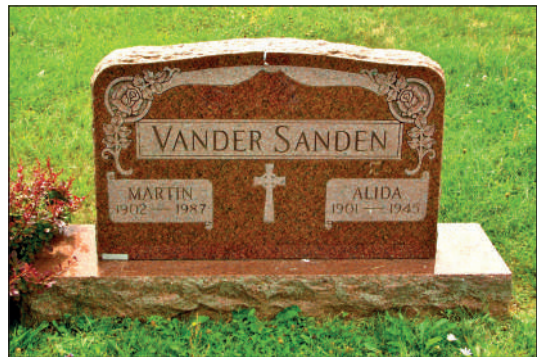
he quickly returned to Harrison, where he married Alida Swan (*Harrison 1901) in May 1924. Alida was a daughter of Peter Swan (*Wognum 1866) and Bernardina Schouten (*Blokke 1866). They had moved from Noord-Holland to Chicago in 1892 and had settled down in Harrison around 1900.

Daughter Margaret Mary van der Sanden was born in Harrison on September 14, 1925. Then eight more children followed who, besides Lorraine (*Little Chute, Wisconsin 1930) and Bernice (*King, Wisconsin 1932), were all born in Harrison: Alice (*1928), Mary Ann (*1929), Martin (*1934), John (Jack) (*1936), Thomas (*1937) and Carl.

Martin submitted a request for naturalization on November 1, 1921, and it was granted on May 4, 1927. He also played an important role in Al Capone's illegal alcohol distillery in Harrison in the late 1920s. He was a distiller in the distillery and also guarded the road there.

When Martin was suffering from rheumatism in 1929, he moved to his family in Little Chute on his doctor's advice. There he worked in a paper factory for about a year and a half, but was fired because of the deteriorating economy. Having four daughters by then the family returned to Harrison in 1930. His father-in-law Peter Swan asked him to come and help him on his farm, and promised him the entire farm should he come. Martin hesitated a little, but because it was his father-in-law, he eventually gave in. The family first went to live in a lumberjack cabin in King, a few miles west of Harrison. In 1934 he and his family came to his father-in-law's farm, which he initially rented and then bought in 1941. His mother-in-law had already died in 1923, and his father-in-law lived with him until his death in 1946. Martin's wife Alida Swan had died of pregnancy poisoning ten months earlier.

Martin was left with nine children. They had a poor income from the milk of a dozen cows, delivered daily to the cheese factory. He also made some extra money by selling waste wood to the paper factory in Tomahawk. The girls took over their mother's duties in the household. Martin and the boys worked on the farm, milking every morning and evening, plowing the land, feeding the pigs and chickens, harvesting alfalfa, oats and corn, chopping firewood and ceaselessly repairing the machines in their forge. The income remained modest, he never earned more than \$ 3,000 a year. Later he enjoyed working in the cattle feed store in Tomahawk. The older children, who had jobs at the hospital in Tomahawk, contributed to the family income. It continued like this until





*Marie van der Sanden-van Ryen with her two oldest children David (*1931) and Gerald (*1933) in front of her home in Harrison in 1934.*

*(Photo collection
J. Lambel-Biggs,
Fresno, California, US)*

around 1960, when Martin decided to concentrate on the cattle trade he had always dreamed of in his youth. Although the number of dairy farms was already declining, Martin bought a truck to be able to transport the cattle. He had a good eye for estimating the quality and price of the cattle that he bought and brought to auctions in Marion and Stratford. He liked this life. In 1965 he sold his farm to Albert Dirks and bought the nearby house that his son Jack van der Sanden had built. In 1975 he sold his truck and moved to a senior apartment in Gleason, Wisconsin. In the final years of his life he was suffering

from emphysema as a result of smoking a lot, and he lived with his children. Eventually he stayed in the Golden Age home in Tomahawk, where he died on July 4, 1987.

Martin was stoic by nature, and was rarely seen laughing. For a long time he was treasurer of the St. Augustine parish and manager of the cemetery in Harrison. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus. His motto was "Man dear life", but nobody knew what he meant by that or where the saying came from. He probably meant "Man dare to live", as a translation of the Dutch phrase "Mens durf te leven".

John van der Sanden (*Hoeven 1903) married Maria Margaretha (Mary) Hermus (*Zevenbergen 1903) in Appleton, Wisconsin on October 25, 1925.

A difficult start for Pete van der Sanden and Marie van Ryen

In the *Eau Claire Leader* of Tuesday June 2, 1931 there was an article about Pete van der Sanden. Pete had married a rather young lady a few months earlier. He wanted to start farming but he did not have the money to buy a farm. He was also unemployed. He told his friend Cornelis Voermans, chairman of the town of Harrison, that he wanted a piece of leftover land. He knew that Cornelis had started this way twenty years ago and had made a success of it. Cornelis knew that there was a piece of 40 acres next to his property with a tax debt on it. It was owned by the Tomahawk Land Company. Con Voermans found out that the tax liability was 100 dollars and that the owner wanted 10 dollars more. Therefore, 110 dollars in total. Van der Sanden was given some wood to build a house, and the newlyweds could start cleaning the soil. Currently, he uses an acre of land where he has planted potatoes, carrots, kohlrabi and cabbages. He hopes to buy a cow before the winter. He wants to sell the wood he can still cut either in Tomahawk or in Rhinelander. He is no longer unemployed because he still has enough work to do with the plowing of the 40 acres, and he looks to the future with confidence.

She was a sister of Rudolph Hermus who married Ann van der Sanden in 1923. John must have known Maria when they both went to school in Zevenbergen. They went to live in Little Chute. There they had six children: Casey (*1926), Nellie (*1928), who had already died in 1930, Jayne (*1930), Petronella (*1934), John (*1940) and Magaret.

John died on January 2, 1960 after a car accident on December 27, 1959. He was buried in St. John's Cemetery in Little Chute. Mary Hermus died on August 26, 1988 and is buried in the same cemetery.

Petrus (Pete) van der Sanden (*Hoeven 1905) married Maria (Marie) van Rijen (*Hoeven 1911), a daughter of Cornelis van Rijen and Catharina Brans. In the 1940 census, Pete and Marie with their three oldest children were listed as living with her father and now widower Cornelis van Ryen with two of his other sons, Pete and Jake van Ryen, who still lived at home. Presumably they moved in after their mother Catherine Brans died in 1937. They had four children: David (*1931), Gerald (*1933), Catherine (*1935) and Bernard (*1945). They also lived in the Honey Moon Shack on Gouda Road, Wagonmaker Road and Mosch Road, but eventually they moved to Columbus, nearly 190 miles south of Harrison. Pete van der Sanden died there on March 11, 1980 and Marie van Ryen on March 8, 1984. Jacobus



(Jake) van der Sanden (*Hoeven 1906) still lived with his parents in Little Chute in 1930. In 1940 he was still unmarried and then lived with someone else in Little Chute. He died on February 14, 1964 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is buried in Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee. He served in the US Army during the Second World War.

Adrianus (Adrian) van der Sanden (*Hoeven 1907) lived with his parents in Little Chute in 1930 and was not married. He worked in the local paper factory. He worked there until his death on May 30, 1985 in Little Chute.

The youngest son **Cornelis** van der Sanden (*Hoeven 1909) worked in the local paper factory of Little Chute in 1930 and lived with his parents. On August 29, 1940, he married Rosella Maria Kroes (*Vandenbroek, Wisconsin 1912). They had three children, girls Mary Jane and Darlene and son John. Cornelis van der Sanden died on August 10, 1987 in Kaukauna, Outagamie, Wisconsin and was buried in St. John Cemetery in Little Chute.

Wouter van Oosterhout (Walter, 1861-1923) and his wife

Anna Maria Siemons (Marie, 1875-1957) with their children

Cornelis (Neal Eastwood, 1900-1989)

Antonius (Thomas, 1902-1979)

Johannes (John, 1903-2002)

Cornelia (Cora, 1904-1991)

Marinus (Martin Eastwood, 1906-1965)

Maria (1909-1996)

Jacoba (1910-1964)

Waltherus (Walter, 1913-1996)

Adrianus (George, 1916-1986)

Wouter van Oosterhout's parents were worker and day laborer Cornelis van Oosterhout (*Hoeven 1826) and Johanna Coevoets (*Hoeven 1825). Wouter was born on July 5, 1861 at Sprangweg 4 (now Hertenlaan 19) in Hoeven.

Anna Maria Siemons was born on July 15, 1875 in Hoeven at St. Janstraat 73 as the daughter of clog maker Antonius Siemons (*Hoeven 1842) and Cornelia Goossens (*Etten 1836). Anna stayed home until she married Wouter van Oosterhout on April 25, 1900. Immediately after that she went to live with Wouter at the Bosschendijk in Oudenbosch. At that address Wouter was registered as an unpaid government officer. However, he did receive a pension from his military service in the Dutch East Indies.

Their first child Cornelis was born there on October 25, 1900. In October 1901 the family moved to St. Janstraat 75 in Hoeven. Wouter bought the house from his father-in-law, who continued to live at number 73 in the left part of the house. Both houses (St. Janstraat 73 and 75) were demolished in

Soldier in the colonies

After Wouter van Oosterhout had been recruited for the national militia as a replacement for Carel van Thoor from Breda, he was assigned to the 6th infantry regiment on May 11, 1881. He apparently liked the army. In January 1885 he therefore decided to volunteer for the colonial troops for six years from the date of embarkation. On April 4, 1885 he left Amsterdam on the Burgemeester den Tex steamship for Batavia in the Dutch East Indies, where he arrived on May 15. In 1891 they extended his contract for another six years and again in 1897 but this time only for two more years.

In the Dutch East Indies he served as a sniper from 1887 to 1889 and then fought in the Atjeh War. In 1891 he was promoted to corporal and after various reassignments in 1898 to sergeant. At the end of 1898 he was sent back to the Netherlands "due to physical incapacity for military service". In January 1899 he arrived back in Amsterdam with the same boat that he had left with. On April 25, 1899, he was awarded by Royal Decree "due to accomplished service, a continuous commitment of 270 guilders a year" and a certificate of good conduct.

1971. Wouter became shopkeeper at a grocery store. Nine more children were born here: Antonius (*1902), Johannes (*1903), Cornelia (*1904), Marinus (*1906), Josephus (*1908) who was only four months old when she died, Maria (*1909), Jacoba (*1910), Waltherus (*1913) and Adrianus (*1916). In 1920 Wouter (then 59 years old) and Anna decided to try their luck in America. According to the passenger list of the Kroonland, he and his son Antonius and daughter Cornelia left Antwerp on April 14, 1920 for his friend Cornelis Hermans (presumably Voermans) in Harrison, Wisconsin. Remarkably, Wouter and his two children also appeared on the passenger list of the Noordam, which eventually left Rotterdam on May 5, 1920. Wouter mentioned that he was leaving for a friend C. Woerman (probably C. Voermans). However, their names got crossed out on this list. A strike was going on in the port of Rotterdam from February 18 to May 5, 1920. It is possible that Wouter was not informed about the course of the strike and, like the Van Rijen family, he first traveled to Rotterdam on the planned date in early April. When the departure was canceled, he left for America via Antwerp.

A few months later, on August 18, his wife Anna Maria Siemons and the other seven children sailed with the Zeeland from Antwerp to New York. Anna was already expecting their 11th child Anna, who was born on December 28, 1920 in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. She died in 2000.



TRIPPLICATE
(To be given to
declarant)

No. 1164

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION (Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of Wisconsin In the Circuit Court
of Lincoln County of Lincoln County at Oriskany, Wis.

I, Anna Maria Van Oosterhout
now residing at Star Route 2 Oriskany, Lincoln Wis.
occupation housewife aged 41 years, do declare on oath that my personal description is:
Sex female, color white, complexion light, color of eyes blue,
color of hair light, height 5 feet 6 inches; weight 100 pounds; visible distinctive marks
none
race Dutch; nationality Netherlands
I was born in Hooven Netherlands, on July 15th 1891
I am widow married. The name of my wife or husband is _____
we were married on _____ at _____; she or he was

Cornelius	Oct. 25th, 1900	Hooven Holland	Chicago Ill.
Anton	Jan. 19th, 1902	" "	" "
John	Aug. 27th, 1903	" "	" "
Cornelia	Oct. 19th, 1904	" "	Tomahawk Wis.
Martin	Oct. 23rd, 1906	" "	Irma Wis.
Maria	Oct. 7th, 1908	" "	Chicago Ill.
Jacoba	Nov. 13th, 1910	" "	" "
Walter	Jan. 8th, 1913	" "	" "
Adrianus	Jan. 23rd, 1916	" "	Tomahawk Wis.
Johanna	Dec. 28th, 1920	Tomahawk Wis.	" "

I will, before being admitted to citizenship, renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly, by name, to the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which I may be at the time of admission a citizen or subject; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to reside permanently therein; and I certify that the photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of me: So HELP ME God.



Anna Maria van Oosterhout-Siemons
Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court,
at Oriskany, Wis. this 30th day of July
anno Domini 1936 Certification No. 14-15594 from the Commission-
er of Immigration and Naturalization showing the lawful entry of the
declarant for permanent residence on the date stated above, has been received
by me. The photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a like-
ness of the declarant.

[SEAL]

Clerk of the Circuit Court.

By _____, Deputy Clerk.

Form 2202-L-A
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

14-2022
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

No 77005

The declaration of intention for the application for naturalization was signed by Anna Maria van Oosterhout-Siemons on July 30, 1936. (www.ancestry.com)



The farm of the Van Oosterhout family in Harrison around 1934.

(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)

Wouter van Oosterhout (called Walter in the US) had already died in 1923 and mother Anna was left behind with ten children, the oldest of whom was 22 and the youngest two years old. It must have been a difficult time for her in a foreign country away from home and with so many children. Fortunately, several families from Hoeven lived in the area, who would certainly have helped her.

Before 1925, Marie Siemons and her children had moved to Chicago, Illinois. In 1930 Thomas, John, Martin, Jacqueline, Walter, George and Anna still lived with her there. Cornelis, Cornelia and Maria van Oosterhout had already left home. When Marie Siemons submitted her naturalization application in 1936, she was living in Harrison again. In 1940 her sons John and George still lived with their mother Marie in Harrison. Marie Siemons died in 1957.





John van Oosterhout in front of his home in Harrison in 1934.

(Photo collection J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US)

None of the family returned to the Netherlands. All children acquired the American citizenship. Marinus and Cornelis even changed their names to Martin and Neal Eastwood. However, not all of them stayed in Wisconsin, but they scattered all over the US.

The eldest son **Cornelis** (Neal Eastwood) married Irene, whose surname has remained unknown. She was born in the Netherlands on February 13, 1903. On January 6, 1925 they had daughter Marion Irene in Chicago, followed by a second daughter Sharon. Cornelis was naturalized on March 28, 1928. He was a cement finisher at the time and lived in Chicago. Later they were listed as Neal and

Irene Eastwood. Irene died on February 19, 1978 and Neal on September 5, 1989 in Pinellas, Florida.

Son **Antonius**, who was called Thomas in the US, naturalized on February 4, 1927. He then lived in Chicago, Illinois. Thomas, who later lived in Fabius, St. Joseph in Michigan, died on February 8, 1979 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The third son **Johannes** (John) naturalized on February 18, 1930. He was living in Chicago and he was a driver by profession.

Between 1930 and 1935, along with his mother, John bought the former farm of Gus Den Tenter at the end of Wagonmaker Road in Harrison. He went to live there with his mother, brother Adrianus and a sister. They bought a few cows and continued farming there. In 1940 he still lived there with his mother and his unmarried brother. In 1954 they sold all but two acres of land and built a new home there.

John married Anneliese M. Braun (*Germany 1914) on June 20, 1957 in Harrison. They continued to live in Harrison. At that time John had a carpen-



try workshop and retired in 1962. Anneliese died on August 1, 1986 in Tomahawk Wisconsin. John van Oosterhout was almost 100 years old when he died in 2002.

Daughter **Cornelia**, who was called Cora in the US, married Albert Roszek on December 1, 1923. They had two daughters Arleen (*Illinois 1925) and

Louise (*Illinois 1930). When Albert died in 1982, the Wausau Daily Herald stated that he had been a farmer and shoemaker. He had lived in Irma near Harrison. His wife Cora died on August 28, 1991 in the Veterans Home in King. In the meantime their daughter Arleen had also died.

Marinus (Martin Eastwood) was naturalized on January 29, 1935. When he applied for naturalization in 1928, he was a factory worker and was living in Chicago. There he married Maria Schroll on July 11, 1936 (*Sellhuben (D) 1906). Maria had arrived from Germany in New York on December 22, 1929. When she applied for naturalization on February 23, 1938, Martin and Maria were living in Chicago with no children. At the 1940 census, they were still living together in Chicago. They got divorced in 1952. At that moment they already had an eight-year-old daughter, Rosemarie. After the divorce, Rosemarie continued to live with her mother. Martin died on September 14, 1965 in Chicago.

On January 20, 1930 in Crow Point, Indiana **Maria** married Dan Basil, who was born in Greece in 1901. In 1940 she was living in Chicago with her husband and her sisters Jacoba and Johanna. On September 17, 1941, she applied for American citizenship. By then Maria, a waitress, was divorced from Dan Basil and still living in Chicago. She died in 1996.



X Maria Adrian Basil
 Subscribed and sworn to (affirmed) before me in the form of oath shown above in the office of the
 Clerk of said Court, at Chicago, Illinois
 this 17th day of September, anno Domini 1941
 I hereby certify that
 Certification No. 11-310434 from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization,
 showing the lawful entry for permanent residence of the declarant above named on the date stated in
 this declaration of intention, has been received by me, and that the photograph affixed to the duplicate
 and triplicate hereof is a likeness of the declarant.

[SEAL] **HOYT KING**
 U. S. DISTRICT
 Clerk of the Court.
 By John M. Casey Deputy Clerk.

Form N-215
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
 (Edition of 1-13-41)

410-12119 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

The letter of intent for the application for naturalization by Maria Basil-van Oosterhout signed on September 17, 1941. (www.ancestry.com)

Jacoba married Louis Cannon (*Chicago 1912) in Chicago on February 2, 1935, but sadly he died on June 19, 1937. At that time, Jacoba was already pregnant. Daughter Louise was born on December 23, 1937. In 1940, Jacoba was living in Chicago with her daughter Louise and two sisters, Johanna van Oosterhout and Maria Basil-van Oosterhout, and the husband of the latter, Dan Basil. When Jacoba, a music teacher, applied for naturalization in 1941, she was still living in Chicago. In 1945 she was back in Harrison where she married Casey Dirks, a son of Peter Dirks and Frances Schoonen. See the further description of her life in the section on Cornelis Dirks (*Oudenbosch 1908).

Walter married Mathilda (Tilly) de Potter (*Sint Jansteen 1913) in St. George near Chicago on February 6, 1937. She had emigrated to the US in August 1920. They had no children in 1939. He was naturalized on January 5, 1940. Walter was a bricklayer at the time and was still living in Chicago. Walter and Mathilda traveled to the Netherlands for two weeks in 1956. Walter van

X Walter Van Oosterhout
 Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court,
 at Chicago, Illinois this 3rd day of November
 anno Domini 1936 Certification No. 11 114035 from the Commis-
 sioner of Immigration and Naturalization showing the lawful entry of the
 declarant for permanent residence on the date stated above, has been received
 by me. The photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a like-
 ness of the declarant.

[SEAL] **HENRY J. FREEMAN**
 U. S. DISTRICT
 Clerk of the Court.
 By Blenda J. Lawer Deputy Clerk.

Form 2202-L-A
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
 IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

14-2023 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

The letter of intent for the application for naturalization by Walter van Oosterhout signed on November 3, 1936. (www.ancestry.com)

Oosterhout died in 1996. His wife Mathilda preceded him in 1995.

Adrianus (George) was naturalized on July 13, 1944. He was living in Tomahawk at the time.

On August 27, 1942 he joined the US Army where he served as a medic. He married Anita Bartels (*Gross Hehlen (D) 1931) in Chicago on April 17, 1960. After his retirement in 1974, he returned to Tomahawk. George died on May 25, 1986 in the Golden Age Nursing Home. Anita then became the life companion of Peter Voermans, the eldest son of Adrianus Voermans. Anita Bartels died on November 26, 2012.



Other destinations

In addition to the immigrants who came to Harrison from the Kapelstraat and surroundings via chain migration, Hoeveners also went to other places in the US.

Anna Cornelia Vergouwen (Kee, 1890-1977) and her husband **Kornelis Hermus** (1882-1961)

Anna Cornelia Vergouwen was born on May 17, 1890 as the daughter of Adrianus Vergouwen (*Rucphen 1856) and Cornelia Jongeneelen (*Rucphen 1860). Between 1890 and 1900 they lived at Roosendaalseweg 39 in St. Willebrord, the municipality of Hoeven at that time. In 1904, when she was only fourteen years old, Anna left home to work as a maid at Kloosterstraat 17 in Roosendaal. On February 17, 1914 she married Kornelis Hermus in Roosendaal. He was born in Steenberg in 1882 but had been living in Roosendaal on the Aardweg since 1883. Kornelis came from a family of thirteen children, eight of whom died at a very young age. As early as March 1912, Kornelis and Johanna Lauwerijssen-Engelen and her children had left for Strathmore in Canada. Kornelis may have known her already because she came from Roosendaal as well. He stayed in Canada for almost two years. In November 1913 he left with the Belgian F. Verhulst for Kimberly, Wisconsin. It is most likely that he immediately traveled from there to Roosendaal, because on March 7, 1914 Kornelis and his wife Kee Vergouwen left from Rotterdam for Kimberly again while they were still on their honeymoon. Between 1915 and 1931, living just southwest of Greenbay, Wisconsin, Kees and Kee Hermus-Vergouwen had no fewer than 14 children, four boys and





*The birthplace of Anna Vergouwen, Roosendaalseweg 39, St. Willebrord.
(Photo collection A. Vergouwen, Hoeven)*

ten girls. These were consecutively: Petronella Cornelia (Nelly) (*1914), Cornelia Marie (Cora) (*1915), Johannes L. (John) (*1916), Adrian Marinus (Bill) (*1918), Anna Maria (Anna) (*1919), Mary C. (Mary) (*1920), Antoinette Elisabeth (Mary) (*1922), Anton J. (Tony) (*1923), James Charles (James) (*1924) who was only six years old when he died, Elisabeth Cornelia (Betty) (*1925), Jane Loretta (Jane) (*1926), who was only eight years old when she died, Josephine Mary (Josephine) (*1927), Theresa M. (Theresa) (*1929) and Rosalie (Rose) (*1931).

Kornelis Hermus was a farmer and an arborist. He died in Kimberly in 1961. He was then 79 years old and is buried in the local cemetery there. Anna Vergouwen died in 1977, aged 87. Anna is also buried at the Holy Name Cemetery in Kimberly.





The family of Kornelis Hermus and Anna Vergouwen around 1930. Daughter Rosalie who was born in 1931 is not yet in this photo. From left to right in the back row: Adrian, Petronella, Johannes and Cornelia. In the front row from left to right: Anton, Anna Vergouwen with Theresa on her lap, James, Elisabeth (sitting), Anna, Antoinette (sitting), Jane, Mary and Josephine on Kornelis Hermus' lap.

(Photo collection A. Vergouwen, Hoeven)

Leonardus de Weert (1891-1971)

Leonardus de Weert was born on January 30, 1891 and was the seventh of the thirteen children of Kornelis de Weert (*Steenbergen 1856) and Adriana Cornelia Guddens (*Steenbergen 1857). All children were born in Steenbergen. They were: Adriaan (*1882), Catharina (*1883), Elizabeth (*1884), Cornelia (*1885), Leonard (*1887), he died already in 1890, Kornelis (*1889), Leonardus (*1891), Maria (*1893), Adriana (*1894), a stillborn daughter in 1898, Johanna (*1899), Christiaan (*1900), who died eight months later, and Christiaan (*1901). In 1902 the working-class family of Kornelis de Weert left Steenbergen for Bergen op Zoom. Seven years later they moved to Roosendaalseweg 44 in Bosschenhoofd. At that time, five children were still living at home. From there, 23-year-old Leonardus de Weert left with the *Vaderland* on March 21, 1914 from the port of Antwerp for his final destination Butler, Otter Tail, Minnesota. In 1917 he was registered as an unmarried farmhand in Codington, South Dakota. On May 31, 1922 he married Angela Stricherz, who was born on March 6, 1901 in Codington. In 1930 they were still living





in Elmira, Codington, South Dakota with now four children: Marie (six years old), Raphael (five years old), Wilfred (three years old) and Laura (two years old). After 1930 they moved to Scanton, Bowman, North Dakota. They were registered there in 1940 with eight children. The family was extended with Maurice who was then nine years old, Audrey (eight years old), Ramona (five years old), Leonard C. (three years old) and Bernard J. (two years old). Marie, now sixteen years old, had left the family home.

Mother Angela Stricherz died on July 28, 1963 and father Leonardus de Weert on August 31, 1971, both in Dickinson, Stark, North Dakota.

Gerardus Roozen (1882-1962) and his wife

Catharina de Rooij (1884-1970) together with their children

Johannes (John J., 1905-1998)

Adrianus (Joseph or Joe J., 1906-1976)

Antonia (1911-1917)

Wilhelmus Gerardus (Gary W., 1914-2001)

Gerardus Roozen was the second of seven children of Johannis Roozen and Levina Kuijstermans and was born on April 23, 1882 in Hoeven at Gors 54. He continued to live there with his parents until he got married to Catharina de Rooij on May 10, 1905.

Catharina de Rooij was the youngest child of farmer Adriaan de Rooij and Antonia Schrauwen. She was born on June 25, 1884 in a family of ten children in the Achterhoek in Bosschenhoofd at the current address Bredasebaan 3. On November 12, 1894 the family moved to Pastoor van Breugelstraat 101, where Wouter Sep had lived before. Mother Antonia Schrauwen died there on June 19, 1896. After the death of father Adriaan de Rooij on November 23, 1903, the children that were still living at home moved to Bredasebaan 18. It was here that Catharina de Rooij married Gerardus Roozen.

The young couple went to live in Noordhoek in the municipality of Standdaarbuiten, where four months later, on September 4, 1905, their son Johannes Adrianus was born. The family of Gerardus Roozen moved to the

Sint Maartenspolder in the municipality of Hoeven in May 1906. They lived there at Goudbloemsedijk 10 until they emigrated to Minnesota in April 1915. They had seven more children on Goudbloemsedijk, one of them was still-born and three others only lived for a few months.

On April 24, 1915, Gerardus Roozen, Catharina de Rooij and their four remaining children Johannes (*Standdaarbuiten 1905), Adrianus (*Hoeven 1906), Antonia (*Hoeven 1911) and Wilhelmus (*Hoeven 1914) departed from Rotterdam with the Potsdam to New York where they arrived on May 6, 1915. Gerardus indicated on the passenger list that they were on their way to visit his brother-in-law Adrianus Dirks in Northcote, Minnesota. He and his wife Johanna Roozen (a sister of Gerardus) had emigrated there a year earlier. On the same passenger list was also Jan Dirks, who was going to visit his son Adrianus Dirks. Two Schoone families from Fijnaart had also specified Adrianus Dirks in Northcote as their destination. And finally Adriana Kalis from Hoeven, who was going to get married to Adrianus Voermans. The group of acquaintances/relatives amounted to a total of 26 people.

Gerardus Roozen and his family settled less than six miles away from his sister Johanna in Hallock, Minnesota. A daughter, Lavinia Audrey, was born there on February 16, 1916. Gerard and Catharina lived here only briefly, because in 1918 Gerardus was registered in Eureka, Lincoln, Montana, 940 miles to the west. That is just south of the Canada-US border and "only" 400 miles south of Strathmore in Canada, where a number of former Hoeven residents lived in Akenstad near Strathmore.

Two sons were born in Eureka, Anton in 1918 and Peter Morris in 1920. Then the family moved to Valier, Montana, 190 miles to the east. In 1927, Gerardus acquired the American nationality. In Valier were born: Bernard (*1921), Mary (*1922), Norbert (*1924), Joseph (*1926) and Robert (*1929). In 1935, the family lived in the outskirts of Pondera, Montana, on the other side of Lake Frances. Before 1940, Gerardus decided to return to Minnesota and to Lime, Blue Earth, just southwest of Minneapolis.

Gerardus Roozen died on July 12, 1962 in Mapleton, Minnesota, situated further south. His wife Catharina de Rooij died there on March 15, 1970.



Johannes (John) married Florence Doyle on July 18, 1927 in Valier, Montana. She was born on March 6, 1906 in Belt-Cascade, Montana. Three children are known from this marriage. John Richard was born on March 21, 1929 in Conrad, Pondera, Montana.

A second child was born on May 27, 1930, but died the next day. Evelyn

Jean was also born in Conrad on November 25, 1933.

In 1930 John lived in Portland, Oregon with his younger brother Joe Roozen. Both worked in a hotel as bellboy. In 1940 Florence Roozen-Doyle and her two children lived with her father in Conrad.

On June 12, 1942, John applied for his naturalization. At that time he lived in Los Angeles, California. He was a mechanic by profession. He indicated to be divorced from Florence Doyle. She still lived with their two children in Conrad. A few months later, however, John married Florence Doyle again on October 14, 1942 in California.

Between 1946 and 1948 the couple was still living in Los Angeles.

Their eldest son John Richard married Kathleen Laven in 1949 and moved to Mankato, Minnesota. He started a garage there. Father John moved from Los Angeles to help him. In 1958 John went back to Los Angeles and started his own garage company there (Roozens Garage). In 1973 he retired and went to live a few blocks away. He certainly lived there until 1996. He died on January 13, 1998 in Mankato, Minnesota. Possibly he had gone to his son again shortly before. His wife Florence Doyle died there a month later.



Adrianus Roozen was named Joseph J. or Joe J. Roozen in the US. He was a salesman by profession. Together with his wife Lilian he had lived in Los Angeles since 1936. He was a car salesman with an annual income of 2,000 dollars. They continued to live at different addresses in Los Angeles, at least until 1960, including on the now world-famous Hollywood Boulevard. Between 1942 and 1945, Joe served in the US Army. Joe Roozen died in Los Angeles on April 12, 1976.

Antonia drowned on September 3, 1917 in Eureka, Montana at the age of six.

STATE OF MONTANA Bureau of Vital Statistics Certificate of Death			
1 PLACE OF DEATH		File No. <u>15</u>	
County <u>Lincoln</u>	State <u>Montana</u>	Registered No. _____	
Township _____	or Village _____	or _____	
City <u>Eureka</u>	No. _____	St. _____	Ward _____
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)			
2 FULL NAME <u>Antonia Roozen</u>			
(a) Residence, No. _____	St. _____	Ward _____	
(Usual place of abode)		(If nonresident give city or town and State)	
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred		yr.	mos.
		days	
How long in U. S., if of foreign birth?		yr.	mos.
		days	
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			
3 SEX <u>female</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>white</u>	5 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) <u>single</u>	
5a If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of _____			
6 DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, and year) <u>May 25, 1911</u>			
7 AGE	Years <u>6</u>	Month <u>3</u>	Days <u>9</u>
	If LESS than 1 day, _____ hrs. or _____ min.		
8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED			
(a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work _____			
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) _____			
(c) Name of employer _____			
9 BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or county) <u>Solver Holland</u>			
PARENTS	10 NAME OF FATHER <u>Gerardus Roozen</u>		
	11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) (State or country) <u>Holland</u>		
	12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Catherine A. De Roo</u>		
	13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) (State or country) <u>Holland</u>		
14 Informant <u>Gerardus Roozen</u>			
(Address) _____			
15 Filed _____, 19 _____ Registrar _____			
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			
16 DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>Sept 3 1917</u>			
17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____, 19____, to _____, 19____, that I last saw h_____ alive on _____, 19____, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ m. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>accidental drowning</u>			
_____ (duration) _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.			
CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) _____ (duration) _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.			
18 Where was disease contracted _____ if not at place of death? _____ Did an operation precede death? _____ Date of _____ Was there an autopsy? _____ What test confirmed diagnosis? (Signed) <u>H. M. Gump, coron. M.D.</u>			
19 (Address) <u>Eureka</u>			
*State the Disease Causing Death, or in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See reverse side for additional space.)			
19 Place of Burial, Cremation, or Removal <u>Eureka</u>		Date of Burial <u>Sept 5 1917</u>	
20 UNDERTAKER <u>N. K. Shuman</u>		ADDRESS <u>Eureka</u>	

(OVER)

Death certificate of Antonia Roozen. She died of accidental drowning, six years old, on September 3, 1917. (www.ancestry.com)

Wilhelmus Gerardus Roozen was named Gary W. in the US. His nickname was derived from his second baptismal name. On October 2, 1939 he married Mathilda Bertha Thielges, who was born on September 12, 1919 in Canby, Yellow Medicine, Minnesota. They had six children together: Thomas Michael (*1940), Catherine Susan (*1941), Margaret Ann (*1942), William Gerard (*1943), Gregory Charles (*1952) and Edward Carl (*1955). In 1940 Gary lived with his wife and their first son with her father in Mankato. On March 10, 1945, Gerard joined the army at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. In 1948 he was living again in Mankato and worked as a carpenter. He later became the maintenance man of the Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church. In 1972, Gary and Mathilde got divorced after 33 years of marriage. Six years

later he married Fern Jones (*Tacoma, Washington 1914) and worked as a carpenter again. Then, they probably moved to Grasham, Oregon. Gary died there in 2001 and Fern in 2004. His first wife Mathilda Thielges died in 2002 in Mankato.

Joannes van Eekelen (John, 1891-1980)

Joannes van Eekelen was the only son of farmer Adrianus van Eekelen (*Hoeven 1858) and Anna Maria Heijnen (*Oudenbosch 1875). He was born on February 28, 1891 at Oude Antwerpsepostbaan 50 in Hoeven. On October 10, 1892 his only sister Maria Cornelia was born here. Father Adriaan had an inn built in 1904 on the location where St. Janstraat 81 is now. The family moved there in March 1905. The father became an innkeeper, possibly with a good clientele of the construction workers who were working on the construction of the new Bovendonk seminar in Hoeven. In 1907, when the construction of the seminary was finished, he sold the inn to Cornelis Lauwerijssen (*Hoeven 1866). Adriaan van Eekelen left for Ginneken with his wife and two children. Then, in January 1908, the family moved to Breda. Both son Joannes and daughter Maria moved from Breda to Rotterdam in September 1908.

Joannes left Rotterdam in 1912 for Constantinople. He was a baker at that time. He may have worked as a cook on a tramp steamer.

As a crew member of the Brandywine, he arrived in New York from Port Lobos in Mexico on October 5, 1919. However, in 1917 he was already registered in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He stated that he was married and a motorman by profession. However, the identity of his wife was not mentioned. He also had experience as a sailor and could navigate a ship along the coast.

On June 1, 1920, he married Margaret Weiner in Milford, Delaware. At the time she was living in Sussex, Delaware and he was staying in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Both indicated that this was their first marriage and that they were single. Margaret was of Hungarian descent. In 1924 a child was still-born in Pennsylvania. In December 1927 John van Eekelen traveled from New York to Plymouth, UK. He had indicated on the passenger list that he was a contractor. In February 1928, he returned to New York on the steamship the Leviathan from Southampton.

In 1930 John, 39 years old, lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with his wife Charlotta, 21 years old, and their six-month-old son, John W. The son was born in Pennsylvania and Charlotta in Germany. Whether Margaret Weiner died or whether they were divorced is unclear. In August 1933 John van Eekelen was again traveling by boat, this time the Bremen, via Southampton to the Netherlands. As profession he now stated that he was a driver. He returned to New York in September 1933 via Southampton.

BRANDYWINE

Form 400
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

Sheet No. 1

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIENS EMPLOYED ON THE VESSEL AS MEMBERS OF CREW

Required under Act of Congress of February 20, 1917

Reported to the United States Immigrant Officer by the representatives of any vessel having such aliens upon arrival at a port of the United States.

80

Vessel S/S BRANDYWINE, arriving at NEW YORK CITY, OCTOBER 19, 1919, from the port of PORT LOBOS MEXICO

(1) No. List	(2) NAMES IN FULL		(3) POSITION IN SHIP'S COMPANY	(4) SHIPPED OR ENGAGED		(5) Whether he paid for or discharged at port of arrival	(6) Age	(7) Sex	(8) Race*	(9) Nationality	(10) Height	(11) Weight	(12) Physical marks or peculiarities
	Family name	Given name		When	Where								
11	DEDEG	IVAN	"	"	"	"	21	"	Serbian	Serbian	5' 6"	150	
12	KREMER	P.	"	"	"	"	29	"	N. S. Croat	N. S. Croat	5' 6"		
13	EKELEN	VAN JON	"	"	"	"	28	"	N. S. Dutch	HOLLANDER	5' 11"	168	
14	ROYCE	STANLEY	"	"	"	"	24	"	N. S. Scot	Scot	5' 8"		
15	SENZEL	Oh.	O. S.	"	"	"	20	"	N. S. Scot	Scot	5' 8"		
16	Mc LIRAY	JAMES	O. S.	"	"	"	32	"	"	"	5' 11"		
17	KAVANAGH	J. L.	CHIEF ENGINEER	"	"	"	31	"	"	"	5' 8"		
18	HEWITT	Robert	1st Asst "	"	"	"	31	"	"	"	5' 11"		
19	HESOH	Robert	2nd "	"	"	"	30	"	"	"	5' 4"		
20	MOORE	James	3rd "	"	"	"	42	"	"	"	5' 6"		

* See list of races on back hereof.
Note.—Failure to furnish full or correct information is punishable by a fine of ten dollars for each alien. See other side.

Line INTEROCEAN OIL CO.
Owner EMERGENCY CORP.
Local Agents INTEROCEAN OIL CO.

Joannes van Eekelen was one of the foreign crew members of the steamship Brandywine that arrived from Port Lobos in Mexico in New York in October 1919.

In 1940 John still lived in Philadelphia with his 24-year-old wife Dorothy Talmadge (*New Jersey 1915), his five-year-old son Theodore and three-year-old daughter Audrey. Again, it is not clear whether Charlotta had died or whether that they were divorced. In 1955 John van Eekelen came from New York to Rotterdam with the Groote Beer, for a six-week stay. Whether he also visited Hoeven was not found.

John van Eekelen died in August 1980. Dorothy Talmadge later married Robert Walters and died in 1995.

Maria Janssen (Marie, 1889-1962) and her husband

Franciscus Musson (Frans, 1888-1947)

Maria Janssen was the daughter of Jacobus Janssen (*Ginneken 1856) and Maria Elisabeth van der Heijden (*Antwerp (B) 1852). At the time of her birth on April 1, 1889 her parents had been living at Achter 't Hof 7 since their wedding in June 1888. In 1894 the couple moved with their son Adrianus (*1890) to Hofstraat 6. After mother Elisabeth van der Heijden had died in March 1896, the two children went to live with their grandparents in Ginneken a month later. The father remarried in 1898 to Johanna van Meer (*Rucphen 1857), after which the two children returned to Hofstraat in Hoeven. In 1908 the family moved to St. Bernardusstraat 27. Maria was then nineteen years old.

A year later, Franciscus Musson from Aardenburg came to work as a tailor's help for Hendrikus Takx at St. Janstraat 36 in Hoeven. He stayed until November 1911 and then went back to Aardenburg, the place where he was born on August 4, 1888. He was the son of Desiderius Musson and Melanie Maertens. Presumably during the period that he worked in Hoeven, he had become acquainted with Maria Janssen. In April 1913, Franciscus Musson emigrated to America. It was noted on the passenger list that he was going to his cousin Jules Maertens in Rochester. In 1917 he lived on the Ridge Road in Irondequoit, New York, but how long he actually stayed there is not clear.

In 1920 he was back in Hoeven, where he married Maria Janssen on January 15. In April of that same year they left Antwerp together with their final destination Jules Maertens in Brighton, Rochester, New York. They had four children in the US: Alice (*1921), Julius (*1922), Melanie (*1925) and Andrew (*1929). They were all born in Irondequoit, just south of Lake Ontario. Daughter Alice married Raymond Merrit in 1944. She died at the age of 94 in 2016. Daughter Melanie married George De Munck.

Franciscus (Frans) Musson died on October 23, 1947. A year later, in November 1948, Marie Musson-Janssen came to the Netherlands for three months. She must have visited her brother and buttermaker Adrianus Janssen, who lived with his wife Adriana Hellemons and their two children at



The railway station in Oudenbosch in 1910, from where most Hoeven emigrants started their journey to America or Canada.

(Photo collection heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven)

St. Bernardusstraat 39. Her father Jacobus Janssen died in 1944 and her stepmother Johanna van Meer in 1935.

Maria Musson-Janssen died on May 13, 1962 in Rochester, New York.

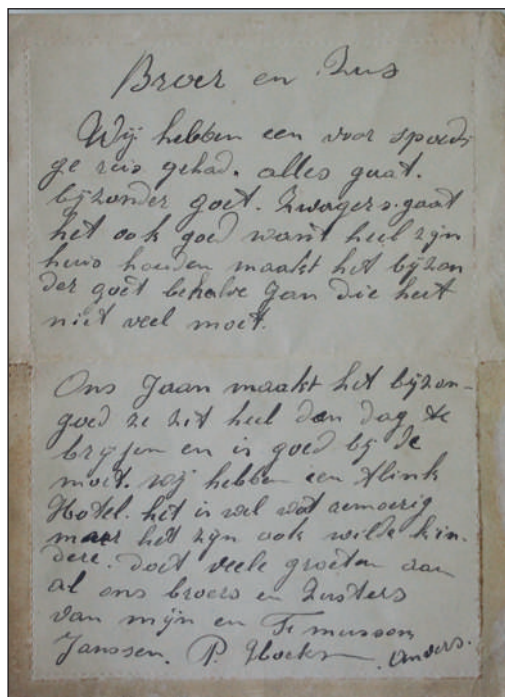
Petrus Hoeks (Piet, 1884-1941)

Petrus Cornelis Hoeks was the son of innkeeper Johannes Hoeks (*Hoeven 1830) and Antonia Maria Schrauwen (*Hoeven 1846). They lived at Hofstraat 23. Antonia and Johannes were married in Hoeven on May 12, 1868 and had nine daughters (two of whom were stillborn) and five sons. Petrus, born on April 17, 1884, was the tenth child and the youngest son in the line of fourteen children.

Johannes Hoeks and Antonia Schrauwen had always lived at Hofstraat 23. Perhaps this house had become too small to accommodate the entire family of now thirteen people in 1889. The four oldest children (13 to 20 years old) went to live on their own at Achter 't Hof 13. When in 1903 the three oldest children were married, the nine children still living at home were reunited in Hofstraat 23.

Petrus Hoeks left from Antwerp with the Kroonland to New York on April 14, 1920 along with the Van der Sanden-Hoeks family of his older sister Adriana and the Van Rijen-Brans and the Van Oosterhout-Siemons families, both from





The first letter from Petrus Hoeks to his family sent from Antwerp in 1920. (Collection family archive Van de Pas-Hoeks, C. van de Pas, Born)

Hoeven. However, he did not go to Harrison in Wisconsin with these families, but traveled with the Musson-Janssen couple to Brighton, Rochester, New York. Jules Maertens lived there, a cousin of Frans Musson.

A number of letters have been preserved from Petrus (Piet) Hoeks. On the basis of what Piet himself wrote to his family, his life in the US can be reconstructed.

Already on April 14, 1920, the day of his departure from Antwerp, Piet's first card was stamped in Hoeven. At the hotel

in Antwerp, where his sister and her family had also arrived, it was a bit noisy with all those children, but they were all doing well. "Our Jaan is doing very well, she is knitting all day and she is in high spirits", he wrote to his parents. On May 2, 1920, he wrote from Rochester. On April 29 the whole group stepped ashore after a long sea voyage, with some delay due to a few days of rough weather. There, they were inspected on Ellis Island. The next day they arrived in Rochester early in the morning with 25 emigrants. Piet Hoeks, his former neighbor Maria Janssen and her husband Frans Musson were very well received by Jules Maertens. "Frans had not been boasting when he spoke about Maertens and America". He also wrote "that cars are passing so frequently that sometimes you have to wait 5 minutes to cross the street". "I will not write too much about the boat; just that it was dirty and shabby. But we had an amusing plot on board. Jan and Frans Klijsen, Verkuijl of Woensdrecht, Theo Kerste of the Plasmolen near Nijmegen and two farmers from Gelderland, but they spent most of their time with Sjouw and Mie van de Sande. They were fervently making out. Kees had his work cut out keeping them in line but they did as they pleased. Our Jaan has made the best. Give many greetings to all my old friends. Greetings from your brother, P C Hoeks".

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Groot Tooneelfeest

gegeven door den Tooneelbond "VOOR TAAL EN KUNST"

op Zondag 15 Mei 1921

in de Toneelzaal, 10 Pleasant Street.

Programma

1. Opening door het orkest der Tooneelbond. Bestuurder: J. Dhondt
Godfroid Polka
Au Drapeau Mazurka
Blue Danube Waltz

2. "DOOR SLECHTE DAGEN", tooneelspel in 3 bedrijven, door
Alfons Bogaert.

.....Rolverdeeling.....

Notaris Tomson	.....	Hector Dhondt
Tante Marie	.....	Alice Miny
Grieta	} Tomson's kinderen	Mme. De Putter
Viera		Miss Van Outreve
Daniel Hageman	.....	Maurice Miny
Dr. William Konings	.....	Maurice Eeckhout
Frank Milford	.....	Gustave Delys
Mr. Grenshower	.....	Cyrille Coppens
Joost, huisknecht	.....	Leopold Van Eecke

3. Tusschen 2e en 3e bedrijven, 15 minuten rustpoos. P. HOEKS

4. Kluchtige tweezang "Netje en Antje," door Mme. De Putter en
en Maurice Miny. (Alice Miny aan de piano.)

5. Slot. Muziek.

Deuren open om 4 ure.

Gordijn om 5 ure, zeer stipt.

PRIJZEN DER PLAATSEN

Voorbehoudene 50c.

Tickets 30c

Balconie 30c.

NAMENS HET BESTUUR

J. MARTENS, voorzitter

C. MINY, tooneelbestuurder.

JOS. MEYVIS, schatbewaarder.

GUSTAVE DELYS, schrijver

Gazette van M. Coline, III.

A stage performance that will certainly have been visited by Musson and Piet Hoeks.
(Collection family archive Van de Pas-Hoeks, C. van de Pas, Born)



In the foreground on the right Petrus Hoeks in the horticultural greenhouses in Irondequoit around 1923. On the left are possibly Frans Musson and his wife Maria Janssen.

*(Photo collection family archive
Van de Pas-Hoeks, C. van de Pas, Born)*

Piet shared a house with Maria Janssen and Frans Musson with Julius Maertens. He worked for him in the vegetable garden for the first fourteen days. There was enough work to be done.

After six months, Piet worked in road construction. He was a team manager there and even in winter he earned 65 cents per hour. Most workers were fired in the winter but he was allowed to stay. He had already managed to save 400 dollars.

In his last letter from 1920, Piet Hoeks said that he had been to Rochester to witness the announcement of the newly elected president on November 2. It was a huge party when at a quarter past eleven in the evening it was announced that Warren Harding had won. "Now Jan you have heard people say: it was like the last judgment. I could say that too because I have never heard such roaring noise. Blowing horns, shouting, ringing, singing, cars with buckets and carbide buses tied to them driving through the streets".

In February 1921, Piet wrote that he was enjoying himself very much and had just celebrated carnival with around 400 Dutch and Belgian emigrants in the room of father Notebaard. In May there was another party and he was asked to perform with his trombone. Despite the prohibition in the US, they were not bothered by it because they made more than enough wine from the grapes of his host Jules Maertens. They had their fair share when first daughter Alize of Frans and Marie Husson was born.



Photo of Petrus Hoeks in his passport of March 1929. (Photo collection family archive Van de Pas-Hoeks, C. van de Pas, Born)

Piet's success could, in his own words, be measured by his weight. He had passed 'the' 100 kilograms. In October 1921 he wrote that he was still working for the same boss, but at 10 cents per hour less than last year. All wages had fallen considerably and there were thousands of unemployed in the city. Most factories were closed or only worked with a fourth or fifth of the working people.

Meanwhile, together with Frans Musson Piet had rented a vegetable farm of seven acres with four greenhouses, one of which was 40 yards long and 13 yards wide. They started to run it together on March 1, 1922. There was work for four men. They would have to earn a lot because the rent was already \$ 1,050 a year.

In March 1922, Piet reported how things were going. He and Frans Musson's family were no longer living with Jules Maertens, but on Ridge Road in Irondequoit. Maertens missed him mainly because he needed help finishing the wine barrels. In his next letters Piet also described what he was cultivating on their farm and that they were doing well; and of course he asked how his friends and relatives in Hoeven were doing.

Piet Hoeks visited Hoeven in the winter of 1925/1926. There he received Christmas wishes from Henri and Louisa, acquaintances from Rochester. On February 23, 1926 he departed from Rotterdam on the Nieuw Amsterdam to Rochester.

Interest in Hoeven politics from Rochester

Apparently Piet had learned through his relatives that in 1921 the municipality of Hoeven was in danger of being annexed by the municipality of Etten-Leur. He gave his unsalted opinion about this and wrote what he thought about what should happen to mayor Van Meer. "By God, do not allow any annexation by those bastards from Etten. If the old man is no longer capable of ruling Hoeven, you should do away with him".

In December 1926, Piet Hoeks sent the usual Christmas wishes to his relatives and acquaintances. At the end of his letter he could not resist to write how displeased he was that his brother-in-law Cornelis van der Sanden had not visited him on his return trip from the Netherlands to Little Chute. "A friend of mine went to Zeeland for a few months this summer and on his return trip by boat he met 'the blue' Van der Sanden. And he asked him to join him to come to Rochester and visit me one day, and my friend told him everything about how we were doing here, but he said he had no time and went to see the Falls. Well brother, that water in the Falls has been running since the beginning of the world and I do not believe it will stop anywhere this week so he could have taken 1 day to visit us, but anyway he has been passing our city by train, and he should not count on me to travel two days to visit him".

In May 1928, Piet was able to report that he had passed the naturalization exam. He had to go to school three times a week for three months. On June 14 the "Certificate of Citizenship" would be handed out to 500 people who would then be offered a dinner. He also wrote that he was considering coming to Hoeven the following year.

At the beginning of December 1928, Piet complained about the declining income from vegetable growing in the area. They had a lot of competition from vegetables imported from the south. "They pay absolutely nothing for land lease and cheap labor from the blacks. But do not complain brother, as

brother-in-law van der Pas would say: a farmer is like a pig, it grunts while it fattens".

At the end of December, Piet wrote that he intended to leave Rochester at the beginning of March. He wanted the address of Cornelis Lauwerijssen in Canada, because before coming to Hoeven next summer he wanted to make a trip through America and Canada, so that in Hoeven he could talk about the "Hoeven farmers in Alberta. It is a long journey by train, 3 to 4 days, but that should be feasible".



Petrus Hoeks in his garden around 1935.

(Photo collection family archive Van de Pas-Hoeks, C. van de Pas, Born)

He would most definitely pay a visit to his brother-in-law Van der Sanden, who had not visited him. He did not expect to be welcome there because he had already written him twice and had not received an answer. Brother Adrian Hoeks had not heard from him for two years either. But if at all possible, he would go to Kimberly to his sister Adriana Hoeks. "Even if he were to stand on his red head 25 times".

Piet Hoeks returned to Hoeven in May 1929. He lived with his brother Jan and sister Antonia, widow of Kornelis Clijs, at St. Janstraat 56.

Piet Hoeks died on April 5, 1941 in the St. Elisabeth nursing home in Oudenbosch. These were sad times for the Hoeks family, because within three months his sister Johanna and his brother Jacobus also died.

Petronella Vermunt (1872-1946) and her husband

Cornelis Schrijner (1863-1927) with their children

Franciscus (Frank, 1904-1979)

Joanna (1906-????)

Bartholomeus (Lambert, 1910-1977)



Petronella Cornelia Vermunt was born on December 24, 1872 at Sprangweg 23 in the municipality of Etten-Leur but in the parish of St. Jan de Doper (St. John the Baptist) in Hoeven. She was the daughter of blacksmith Johannes Vermunt (*Etten 1823) and Johanna van Hoof (*Zevenbergen 1835). Her mother died in 1879 when Petronella was only six years old. On October 8, 1890, Petronella, 17 years old, left for Antwerp, probably to live with her oldest sister Joanna. Later she worked as a housekeeper in Eindhoven. From there, she

Petronella Schrijner-Vermunt with her little daughter Joanna around 1907.

(Photo collection heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven)



From left to right: Frank, Joanna and Lambert Schrijner in Chicago around 1925.

(Photo collection heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven)

left for Baardwijk on March 19, 1900. There she ended up at the bread bakery Bartholomeus Schrijner. On November 5, 1903 she married his son Cornelis Hendrikus Schrijner (*Baardwijk 1863), also a bread baker. The couple had four children there. Daughter Allegonda (*1908) died in 1909. On October 10, 1923 Petronella traveled with her husband and their three children Franciscus (*1904), Joanna (*1906) and Bartholomeus (*1910) with the Veendam from Rotterdam to New York. They arrived there after a ten-day trip on October 20. Their destination was Chicago, Illinois where, according to the passenger list, foster son Theodorus Franciscus Pelk (*Amsterdam 1887) lived, who had already left for America in 1910.

Cornelis Schrijner died on November 11, 1927 in Chicago and was buried on November 14 in the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Worth, Cook, Illinois. Petronella returned to the Netherlands in 1936. She was registered in the population register in Waalwijk with her daughter Joanna who had already returned to the Netherlands in 1929. Petronella Vermunt died on August 29, 1946. The two sons remained in America.

Their son **Frank** Schrijner got married to Margaret Callahan, born August 16, 1910 in Ashtabula, Ohio on April 21, 1935 in Valparaiso, Indiana. They had a son Frank (*Evergreen Park, Illinois 1938). Frank senior, who was a car mechanic, lived with his family in Chicago in 1942, when he applied for naturalization. He died on November 22, 1979. Margaret died in Merrville, Indiana on October 5, 1994.



Nico Ligthart and Joanna Schrijner visiting her cousins (the teachers) Jo and Cor Vermunt at St. Bernardusstraat in Hoeven around 1950. From left to right: Cor Vermunt, Nico Ligthart, Jo Vermunt and Joanna Ligthart-Schrijner.

(Photo collection heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven)

Their youngest son, **Lambert**, married Dorothy Cannon in Chicago on March 17, 1934. She was born in Chicago on October 18, 1912. They had a son James (*Chicago 1935). Lambert, who sold blinds, was still living in Chicago in 1940 when he applied for naturalization. He died in May 1977. Dorothy died on June 25, 2007 in Valparaiso, Indiana. Their son, James Schryner, married to Marie O'Connor, died on December 30, 1998.



Their daughter **Joanna** submitted a "Declaration of Intention" (for naturalization) on May 21, 1925. She was not married yet and lived in Chicago.

On July 1, 1929, Nicolaas

Petronella Schrijner-Vermunt (1872-1946) and her daughter Joanna Schrijner (1906-????).

(Photo collection heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven)

Ligthart (*Hooge en Lage Zwaluwe 1900) traveled to his aunt, Petronella, in Chicago. Apparently, he married Joanna Schrijner there, because on October 10, 1929 she was registered in the Zevenbergen population register as married to him coming from Chicago. On November 7, 1930, the couple moved to Waalwijk where Nicholas became a deputy for the postal services. Nicolaas Ligthart died on May 16, 1966 in 's-Hertogenbosch and was buried in Waalwijk on May 20, 1966.

EMIGRATING TO CANADA

Canada's immigration policy

In 1895 Canada had approximately five million inhabitants and there had been an emigration surplus for half a century. More residents left Canada than settled there, so the population declined. Because of that the Canadian government did everything to promote immigration. In addition, they were selective and there was a clear preference for experienced farmers and farm-hands. They had to settle in prairies in the middle and the west of the country which were made accessible by the construction of railway lines. Since 1881 they had been working on the construction of a railway line between Winnipeg on the east side of the country and Calgary at the foot of the Rocky Mountains parallel to the border with the US. This line was to replace the more northerly and longer line via North Battleford and Edmonton to make Canadian rail transport more competitive with the American line along the national border.

The Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) built that southern railway line. To accommodate this, the government gave them ownership of about 40,000



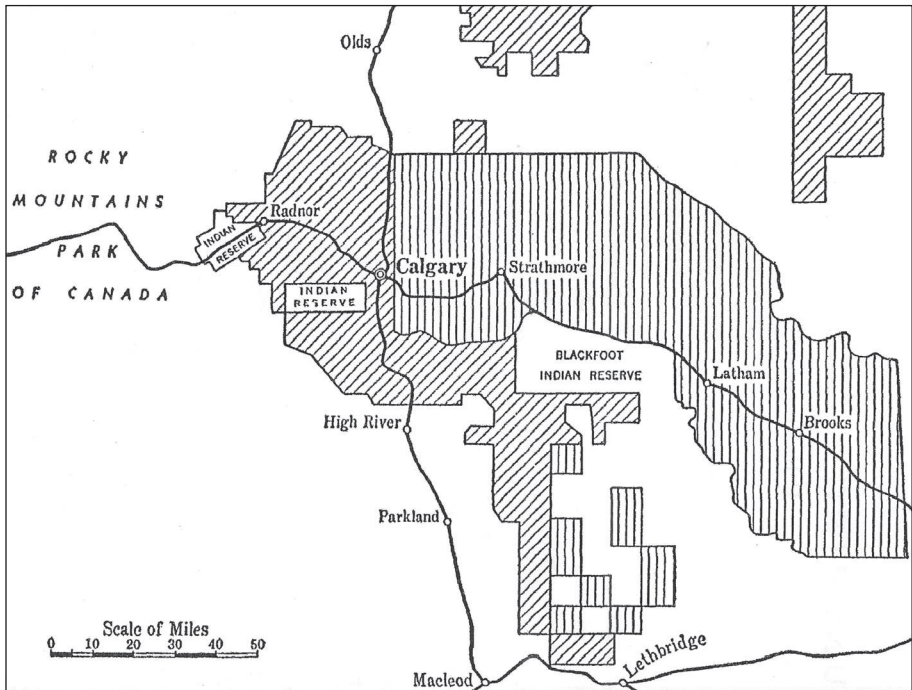
square miles of land along the line, more than two and a half times the size of the Netherlands. A strip of twenty-four miles on either side of the railway line was divided into plots of one square mile each. The area was divided like a chessboard, alternating a section for the CPR and a section for the Canadian government. The CPR only had to accept land that was suitable for settlement and exploitation as agricultural land.

In order to recover the costs of the construction of the railway line, the CPR had a major interest in the land along the railroad being utilized. It did not sell the land to speculators such as in the US, but directly to new farmers. Between 1896 and 1914 the CPR earned more than Can\$ 84 million in land sales. Although these sales generated a substantial amount of money, this was not CPR's main objective, but rather the transport of the agricultural products that were being grown on the new farmlands on the Canadian prairie.

The CPR developed into much more than a railroad company. It became a huge project enterprise creating access to the western part of Canada. It determined where the 800 stops and more than a hundred locations for the farmers were to come. The CPR had test farms, ready-made farms (land with a farm on it), its own colonization agency and its own shipping company for transporting immigrants from Europe. In addition, the CPR also took care of the construction and operation of irrigation works, where needed.



The office of the Department of Immigration and Colonization of the CPR near Strathmore around 1910. (Photo collection P. Lauwerijssen, Hoeven)



The territory of the CPR in South Alberta. In the diagonally shaded areas, the CPR owned the even-numbered sections. The vertically shaded area was the irrigation block of which the CPR owned all sections. (Hedges, page 170)

An irrigation project at Strathmore, Alberta

In 1903 the CPR took over an irrigation block from the government east of Calgary. This semi-dry area of more than 12,000 square kilometers, of which the CPR owned all sections, was initially rejected by the CPR as being unfit for agriculture. The area had to be made suitable for agriculture and livestock farming by irrigation. The CPR, without government support, faced the daunting task of recruiting enough immigrants and realizing irrigation. The CPR initially called in the Canadian Pacific Irrigation and Colonization Company (CPICC) which recruited farmers through an extensive network in North America and the United Kingdom. The results were disappointing and in January 1908 the CPR itself began to recruit by incorporating the CPICC in its Land and Colonization Department, which became a successful recruitment organization. A rosy picture was sketched of how simple irrigation farming was. The immigrants could count on sufficient support, test farms were made available. There was a Development Department for work such as pasture plowing, fencing and harvesting. The price of irrigable land in 1908 was around Can\$ 45 per hectare. The recruitment agent was also well



rewarded for every immigrant he brought in. In addition to the commission he received from the government for securing the immigrant, he also received two dollars and 25 cents from the CPR for every hectare sold.

A Dutch colony

The CPR had a preference for group settlement or colonies. In this way colonies of immigrants from Poland, United Kingdom, Danmark and also the Netherlands were created. A newly developed irrigation area was provided for the Dutch, just north-east of Strathmore.

In 1906 Strathmore, situated about 30 miles east of Calgary, was opened for settlers. There was a railway station and a test farm, but hardly any people lived there at that time. In 1911 the population had increased to 500 inhabitants. Four miles from Strathmore, the Dutch Colony of Akenstad was founded in 1908. The first Brabant emigrants named this colony after their recruitment agent Cornelis van Aken.

To attract Dutch settlers to the irrigation project near Strathmore, the CPICC came into contact with Cornelis van Aken (*Slikgat 1872) who was a priest of Dutch origin from the diocese of Helena in Montana (US). In the summer of 1907 he was still working in Butte which was 700 kilometers south of Strathmore.

From an article in *Edmonton Daily Bulletin* of September 12, 1907, it can be concluded that Cornelis van Aken himself had contacted the CPICC. According to the priest, he was sent by The Christian Union of Holland for farmers, but he probably meant the Noord-Brabantse Christelijke Boerenbond. Whether this claim was correct is doubtful because Gerlacus van den Elsen, the founder of the farmers' union, was very reluctant regarding emigration. After a trip to North America at the end of



Marinus van Aken was born in Princenhage in 1841, but grew up in Zevenbergen. His parents moved with their children to Calishoek there in 1845. The now 20-year-old Marinus was still living at home when the family moved to Terheijden in 1863. They came to live in the Noord neighborhood of the hamlet Slikgat (called Langeweg from 1910 onwards). In 1870, farmer Marinus van Aken married Henrica van Beek. Henrica grew up in Klundert, where she was born in 1842. The couple continued to live on the parental farm. The parents left for Zevenbergen. Ten children were born from the marriage. The first child was declared stillborn. Seven sons and two daughters followed. Marinus van Aken founded a brick factory on the Zuiddijk in 1895. In 1897 the couple moved to Zevenbergen with the children that were still living at home. Marinus died there in 1912, his wife Henrica van Beek died in 1916.

It is remarkable that most of the children had the opportunity to study and four of them became clerics. Perhaps they had been influenced by two uncles, namely Peter and Cornelis van Beek, who had both become priests.

Cornelis Marinus Hendrikus van Aken (*1872) was the first to leave home and at the age of twelve he went to the Instituut St. Marie (St. Marie Institute) in Huijbergen. A year later he went to the Latijnse School (Latin School) in Gemert. After a four-year stay at the minor seminary in Sint Michielsgestel, Cornelis went to the major seminary in Haaren in 1890 and after that he went to the Amerikaans College in Leuven in 1893.

The second son, Petrus Cornelis van Aken (*1873), was ordained as priest in 1899. After that he was a chaplain in Deurne and Tilburg. In 1919 he was appointed as pastor in Beek-Ubbergen and in 1934 as dean of the deanery Beek-Ubbergen. He died in Ubbergen in 1939.¹

Lambertus Hendrikus van Aken (*1876) was ordained in 1900. He entered the Abbey of Berne in Heeswijk in 1894 and was given the monastic name Pius. He was prior here from 1908 to 1919. In 1915 he was involved in the establishment of the Algemeene RK Werkgeversvereniging (ARKWV) (General RC Employers' Association). He was pastor of Vlijmen from 1924 until his death in 1938. Daughter Antonia van Aken (*1881) went to live with her uncle Johannes and aunts Johanna and Adriana van Beek when she was seven years old. At the age of 23 she entered the Franciscan order at Bergen op Zoom and took her vows in 1907. Her monastic name was Gerarda. In 1932 she was elected Mother Superior of the congregation. Sister Gerarda died in 1950.²

Jacobus Joseph van Aken (*1878), director of the brick factory founded in





*The family of Marinus van Aken (*1841) and Henrica van Beek (*1842) around 1910. In the middle of the photo between father and mother the four clerical members of the family from left to right: pastor Cornelis (*1872), Norbertine Lambertus Hendrikus (*1876), daughter Antonia (sister Gerarda) (*1881) and chaplain Petrus Cornelis (*1873). The other four sons Gerardus Johannes (*1874), Jacobus Josephus (*1878), Christoffel Johannes (*1880), Hermanus Marinus (*1886) and far left daughter Hendrika (*1883) complete the picture.*

(www.picasa.google.nl, collection Bert Luijpen)

1895, married Adriana Barbara de Rond (*Hoeven 1879) of Goudbloemsedijk 6 in Hoeven in 1907. In 1917 he became alderman of Zevenbergen and from 1925 until his death in 1942, he was the mayor. Jacobus acted as an agent for his eldest brother Cornelis who was recruiting emigrants for Canada in 1907 and subsequent years.

In 1907 the youngest daughter Hendrika Petronella Adriana van Aken (*1883) married the merchant Henricus Godefridus van Stokkum (*Tilburg 1882). In 1920 the couple moved from Tilburg to Nijmegen. Hendrika died there in 1936.

In 1908 the brothers Gerardus Johannes (*1874), Christoffel Johannes (*1880) and Hermanus Marinus van Aken (*1886) left with their oldest brother Cornelis for Strathmore, Alberta in Canada. How Gerardus and

Hermanus fared is described elsewhere in the book. Christoffel had already traveled to the US in 1904. After his departure from Strathmore he stayed in Montana, US. He then worked as a nurseryman in Essondale, British Columbia, Canada, where his brother Gerardus lived. He married Julia Mullaly and together they left for the US in 1915 and eventually settled in the state of New Jersey.

Shortly after completing his studies in Leuven, 24-year-old Cornelis van Aken traveled to Helena, Montana in the US in 1896. He was probably brought to the US by Jean Baptiste Brondel (1842-1903), the bishop of Helena, who had also studied at the Amerikaans College in Leuven. Cornelis had been stationed in Helena for three years before being appointed pastor of the parish of Philipsburg, Montana in October 1899. In the absence of Bishop Brondel, Cornelis was in charge of the diocese. He became an American citizen on February 25, 1902. After the death of the pastor of the St. Joseph parish in South Butte, Montana, Cornelis was transferred here in August 1903. He had plans to build a new church and a school. The building started in 1906 under his leadership, but when the school was finished a year later, he was no longer the pastor of St. Joseph. In May 1907 his brother Gerardus had come from Zevenbergen to visit different states with Cornelis in search of the best land to grow sugar beet. Apart from Montana, they also visited Colorado, Idaho and Utah. The pair arrived in Calgary, Alberta in Canada in September 1907. Here Cornelis came into contact with people from the irrigation project of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company (CPR). In November 1907, Cornelis van Aken started a series of lectures for various places in Noord-Brabant, Limburg and East and West Flanders to persuade farmers to emigrate. In addition to Ulvenhout, Dongen, Waspik and Wagenberg he also gave a lecture in

1906, Van den Elsen was generally not in favor of emigration because of the dangers 'to the soul with so many temptations and so much dissipation, so many mixed marriages, lack of church attendance and lack of respect for and obedience to the older generations'. The question remains: did Van den Elsen assume that Cornelis van Aken himself would become a priest in the future Akenstad and thus protect the Brabant immigrants against all the temptations so that he (Van den Elsen) could still give his approval for emigration to Canada?

Van Aken stated in the article that he could have 500 Dutch farming families immigrate to this area if the soil was good enough. Earlier, he and his brother Gerardus van Aken, who had owned a farm in the Sint Maartenspolder in Hoeven for a number of years, had viewed areas in the US states of Colorado,



Gastel. In March 1908 the first group of Brabant emigrants left for Canada. In November 1908, Christoffel van Aken informed *The Gleichen Call*, a Canadian newspaper, that Cornelis was on his way back to the Netherlands to recruit more farmers for the next trip in March 1909, but Emile Wüstefeld from Zutphen was now appointed as the new representative of the CPR instead of him. A year later Father Van Aken planned to found a new colony in Canada. It was probably only a plan as shortly afterwards, Cornelis relocated to Montana. He was appointed as the pastor of Whitefish, Montana in 1911 and remained in this post until the fall of 1916, after which he left for Tulsa, Oklahoma. He had resigned from the priesthood and called himself Dr. Neil van Aken. At the end of April 1917, a week before his 45th birthday, Neil volunteered for the US Army. He was assigned to the Oklahoma Ambulance Company No. 1, received the rank of first sergeant and left for France in October. In April 1919 he returned to the US and was released from the army. Later that year he married Gertrude Christian in Manhattan, a district of New York. The couple went to live in Scarsdale, New York. Neil went to work for the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in New York. From 1926 to 1928 he wrote a column "*Mijn indrukken uit Amerika*" (*My impressions of America*) which appeared in the *Leidsch Dagblad*, among others. In 1939 he represented the Netherlands at the world exhibition in New York. In 1940 Neil and his wife Gertrude moved to Cheshire, Massachusetts. Neil van Aken died on December 2, 1950 and was buried at the Long Island National Cemetery in East Farmingdale, New York. His wife died in 1952 and was buried next to her husband.

¹ [https://deurnewiki.nl/wiki/index.php?title=Petrus_Cornelis_van_Aken_\(1873-1939\)](https://deurnewiki.nl/wiki/index.php?title=Petrus_Cornelis_van_Aken_(1873-1939))

² Verhoeven, D. and A. van Heijst, *Zusters van 't Ketriontje 1838-2013. Franciscanessen van Bergen op Zoom*. Nijmegen, 2013, p. 28-30.

Idaho, Utah and Montana, but these did not meet their requirements. Van Aken mainly considered the cultivation of sugar beets, in which, according to him, the Dutch were experts. He was probably influenced by the sugar industry that had flourished in West-Brabant since 1860. Around 1900 there were already 15 sugar factories, including four in and around Zevenbergen. In *The Gleichen Call* of September 19, 1907, Cornelis van Aken, who had examined the soil together with his brothers Jacobus and Gerardus van Aken, stated that he and C.W. Peterson of the Colonization Company had agreed to reserve 35,000 acres (approximately 14,000 hectares) for the 300 to 400 Dutch farmers with whom he would return in May 1908. He praised the quality of Dutch farmers. They were "expert farmers, born workers", especially when it came to growing sugar beets. He also stated that if 20,000 hectares

*OUD-GASTEL, 20 Dec.

Naar Canada.

Lezing van den Z.Eerw. heer C. M. van Aken.

Nooit te voren zag onze Harmoniezaal zoo'n menschenmassa binnen hare muren als heden avond. Uit alle rangen en standen waren ze toegestroomd om de lezing te hooren van den Z.Eerw. heer C. M. van Aken, Priester-Missionaris over het boerenland der toekomst Alberta in Canada. Geen enkele boeren- of arbeiders-familie of zij was door een of meer harer leden vertegenwoordigd.

Wat de lezing betreft zij was prachtig en werd voorgedragen met een overtuiging en een geestdrift deze goede zaak ten volle waardig.

Z. Eerw. begon met te zeggen:

Ik heb gezegd, dat ik mijne taak heb opgenomen, gedrongen door een menschelijk medelijdend hart. Dat ik medelijden heb met den boerenstand van onzen tijd, is geheel natuurlijk, wanneer ik naga, dat ik zelf een boerenzoon ben, en dat het er voor den boer, vooral den boerenzoon en boerenarbeider zoo buitengewoon donker uitziet. De toestand, hier te lande, is voor menigen braven en werkzamen boer allesbehalve gunstig. Zie eens, wat er in den laatsten tijd al niet gedaan is. De boeren zelf hebben flinke bonden; op allerlei wijze wordt ten gunste van hunne stoffelijke en geestelijke verheffing gewerkt. De laatste 10 jaren zijn bijzonder gunstig geweest. En toch..... duurzame, algemeene verbetering is er niet. Een boer,

ik, dat een boer nog op de rekening stond der maatschappij, na het winnen van zijn derden oogst.

Ziehier dus in 't kort de voorwaarden en condities noodig om daar in eens flink boer te worden.

1°. Een H.A. kost 160 gld. te betalen naar verkiezing in tien jaarlijkse termijnen.

2°. Reisgeld, van Holland naar Alberta, tweede klasse, voor één volwassene circa 200 gld. alles inbegrepen; derde klas ongeveer 140 à 150 gld. Voor kinderen alles in evenredigheid, opgave op aanvraag te verkrijgen.

3°. Ongeveer 1500 gld. voor een huis, groot genoeg om een familie van 6 à 8 personen te herbergen.

4°. Een vijfhonderd gulden om gereedschappen en landbouwwerktuigen te kopen.

5°. Ongeveer 500 gld. voor een span paarden.

6°. Nog 300 gulden voor onvoorziene onkosten. Voor het huis en de landbouw-artikelen wordt, zoo noodig, ook credit gegeven. In 't kort, ik zou durven waarborgen, dat iemand, die er wil beginnen, op eene boerderij van zestig H.A. en over een kapitaal kan beschikken van 3500 à 4000 gulden, er in korten tijd niet alleen al zijn land en andere benoodigheden kan betalen, doch er schatrijk kan worden. Daarenboven bestaat er het vooruitzicht, dat de grond binnen weinige jaren, als alles is verkocht en verbouwd wordt, meer dan 100, ja 200% zal stijgen in waarde. Hetzelfde is geschied in den

Excerpt from the report in De Grondwet of December 25, 1907 on the lecture of Cornelis van Aken in Oud Gastel.

of land were to be used for sugar beet cultivation, at least seven sugar factories would have to be built. The CPICC would take care of that. Apparently Cornelis van Aken had big plans. After he had returned to the Netherlands, he started to work energetically upon recruiting the promised number of immigrants.



At the end of 1907 Cornelis van Aken started his recruitment in the area between Breda and Tilburg. On November 27 he gave a presentation in Café Hurks in Ulvenhout. On December 9 he addressed farmers in Moergestel and on December 12 in Baarle-Nassau. On December 20, 1907 he managed to captivate his audience in the hall of De Gildenbond in Tilburg.

An announcement for a lecture on Saturday December 21 by the Van Aken brothers in the Harmoniezaal in Oud Gastel was placed in *De Grondwet* of December 18, 1907. An extensive report was published in the newspaper of December 25 containing the full text of the lecture.

On January 28, 1908 the *Oudenbossche Courant* featured a letter by an unknown nurseryman, H.L., commenting on the beautiful stories of Cornelis van Aken. He had been to Canada several times and not all was as promising as Van Aken had depicted. He hoped to temper the euphoria about the promised land of Canada with his comments.

First Brabanders to Strathmore

On March 12, 1908 Cornelis van Aken left Rotterdam with his first group of emigrants from Brabant. They arrived in Canada on March 21. They continued by train to Strathmore where they arrived on March 28. They were all mentioned in *The Gleichen Call* of April 2, 1908. They were (age in parentheses): the four Van Aken brothers, Chris (28), Herman (22), Gerald (32) and pastor Cornelis (35), all born in Slikgat, Hendrik Schram (40) with his wife Antonetta Janssens (40) and their son Gerardus (8 months) from Chaam, Antoon Weijers (36) and his wife Annie (40) from Tilburg, William Weijers (31), a brother of Antoon, and his wife Martina Blom (30) from Princenhage, Albert (28) and Jan van Loon (25), the three unmarried friends Norbertus Kolen (31), Jan van Rooij (27) and Noud Boers (23) from the Hasselt neighborhood in Tilburg, Henricus Bierens (31), Johannes Cools (39), Johan Dekkers (37), Josefa Fouchier (34), Aloys Franken (36), Cornelis Geerts (28) from Ulicoten, Christian Goosen (24), Christian Jansen (37) from Breda, Bernard Kerstens (37), Albert van Empel (31) and Christoffel van Ginneken (26), a cousin of the Van Aken brothers. The group consisted of 26 adults and a child, including Cornelis van Aken. Also mentioned were Leopold de Vos (24) and his wife Louise (18) from Belgium, who came to Canada on the same crossing.

No farmers from Hoeven belonged to this first group. The time between the lecture in Oud Gastel and the departure was probably too short to complete all the preparations for the journey, such as the sale of any properties. Gerardus (Gerald) van Aken, who had lived in the Sint Maartenspolder from 1900 to 1905 and where three of his children were born, did manage to join the group.

Travelog in the Nieuwe Tilburgsche Courant

The journey was described in detail in the *Nieuwe Tilburgsche Courant* from May 16 to 27, 1908 by a correspondent who had traveled with the group to Canada.

On March 12, 1908 the group left aboard the steamship Swift from Rotterdam to Hull in England. The start of the voyage was very disappointing because the vessel chartered by Van Aken looked like a converted cargo ship and no one had a decent place to sleep. The emigrants were transported from Hull to Liverpool, where The Victorian of the Allan-Line was waiting for them. At the departure, Father Van Aken had to do his utmost to guide Hendrik Schram's baby through the health examination, because it had a small rash on its forehead. Sick immigrants were not welcome in Canada. There were approximately 1,000 people on board. The first days went well. Games were being played and there was a lot of singing. They arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia on March 20. The next day the ship departed for the final destination, St. John, from where they traveled to Calgary by train. None of the people from Brabant had to pass the strict check because Father Van Aken was able to submit letters of recommendation from the CPR.

During the trip to the first stop in Montreal, people had to sit and sleep on wooden benches. After complaining about this and a phone call to the CPR headquarters made by pastor Van Aken threatening that all the Dutch would turn around, everyone was given a mattress, blankets and a pillow for the remaining part of the journey to Calgary (another four days). Calgary made a prosperous impression on the people of Brabant. It was a town with around 25,000 inhabitants, electric street lighting, water supply and the station for the electric tram was under construction. The emigrants arrived at their final destination of Strathmore on March 28. A village with only 78 inhabitants. Everyone was accommodated in the King Edward Hotel, which was the only hotel in Strathmore.

The plots of land intended for the people of Brabant were situated in a beautiful valley (one hour wide and ten hours long) with canals along the top of the slopes from which the land could be irrigated. Everyone could choose their own plot. On April 5 the people from Brabant were asked to choose a name for the new colony. It became Akenstad. The CPR would reserve 64 hectares to build a church, a parsonage, a school, a post office and shops. Together with local carpenters, the first wooden house was put together in five days to save hotel expenses. The reporter estimated the construction costs to be between 1,200 and 1,400 guilders. Immediately after that the farmers started plowing as the land had to be ready before mid-May. To achieve this, plows and plowmen had to be hired, otherwise 64 hectares (the minimum plot size) could not be cultivated in such a short time.

In mid-April, an agreement for the supply of sugar beets was signed with a sugar factory in Raymond, Alberta, which was more than 200 kilometers



south of Strathmore. Every farmer would reserve 20 hectares of his land for the cultivation of sugar beet. To ensure that everything would go well, a foundation was established with Gerrit van Aken as director and Bernard Kerstens, Toon Weijers and Christ Jansen as commissioners.

Hoeven's emigrants to Canada

A first introduction

Clearly influenced by the recruitment campaign initiated by pastor Cornelis van Aken, who had given a presentation in Oud Gastel in December 1907, emigrants also left from Hoeven for Canada. In March 1908, **Gerardus van Aken**, a brother of pastor Cornelis van Aken, who had lived in the Sint Maartenspolder from July 1900 to January 1905, left with the first group. His three oldest children were born in the Sint Maartenspolder.

Three families from Hoeven left in September 1908 with the second group of emigrants of pastor Van Aken. These were the families of **Egidius Bartelen**, his wife and four children, **Jacobus Voermans**, his wife and six children and his brother **Josephus Voermans** with his wife and five-month-old son. In 1909, nurseryman **Ignatius van der Bom** followed and in 1910 his wife **Maria van Oerle** and their children joined him. Along came both her brother **Gerardus van Oerle** and **Adrianus Hoeks** to Canada. Also in 1910 the bachelors **Johannes Rijnvos**, **Johannes Rombouts** and **Wilhelmus van Oerle** headed for Canada in pursuit of happiness. Finally, **Cornelis Lauwerijssen** left for Canada in 1911 and his wife **Johanna Engelen** and their children joined him in 1912. They were the last to seek their fortune in Canada before the First World War.

After 1918 emigration from Hoeven to Canada was resumed.

These emigrants were mostly persuaded by the relatives of Cornelis Lauwerijssen and his wife Johanna Engelen. They had visited their relatives in Hoeven and Roosendaal in the fall of 1920. When they returned in the spring of 1921, **Johannes Lauwerijssen**, an unmarried brother of Cornelis and two cousins of Johanna Lauwerijssen-Engelen, Petrus Vergouwen and Johannes Wagemakers went with them to Canada. In 1924 Johannes, the eldest son of Cornelis and Johanna, was searching for a bride in Hoeven. He found **Catharina Vermunt** there. After their wedding in Hoeven, they immediately left for Strathmore bringing along two brothers of Catharina, **Johannes** and **Jacobus Vermunt**. **Johannes van Tetering**, a sixteen-year-old nephew of Johannes Lauwerijssen, had also joined this group. He settled in Canada and married an immigrant from Hoeven **Johanna van Ginneken**. In 1926 Cornelis (junior), another son of Cornelis and Johanna Lauwerijssen, also came to Hoeven to look for a bride. He married **Adriana van Eekelen**

there. **Gerardus van Campenhout** traveled with them to Strathmore. When Johannes Lauwerijssen visited Hoeven in 1927 after having emigrated in 1921, he took the family of **Henricus Jochems** and **Catharina Waegemaekers** and the bachelors **Josephus Takx**, **Jacobus van Loon**, **Antonius van Meel** and **Hendricus Vermunt** with him upon returning to Canada. Meanwhile another inhabitant from Hoeven **Johannes Adrianus Vermunt** had traveled to Canada in 1923 to see if the country had something to offer him.

Strathmore, Alberta

Gerardus van Aken (Gerrit, 1874-1934) with his wife
Johanna Damen (Jeanette, 1874-1957) and their children
Marinus (George, 1901-1962)
Antonius (Antoon, 1902-1991)
Hendrika (Henriëtte, 1903-1984)
Antonia (Anna, 1905-1997)

Gerardus Johannes van Aken was the third son of Marijnus van Aken (*Princenhage 1841) and Henrica van Beek (*Klundert 1842). He was born on November 12, 1874 in the Terheijdense part of Slikgat (now Langeweg). In order to be properly educated, he left for the Instituut St. Marie in Huijbergen at the age of ten. In 1887 he went on to the Latijnse School in Gemert, after which he started his studies at the minor seminary Beekvliet in Sint Michielsgestel. Three years later he returned to his parents. With them he moved to Zevenbergen in 1897. A year later he returned to Slikgat as a brick-maker. In July 1900 he moved to Langeweg 1 as a farmer in the Sint Maartenspolder, a district of Hoeven, where he took over the farm of Adriaan Heestermans.

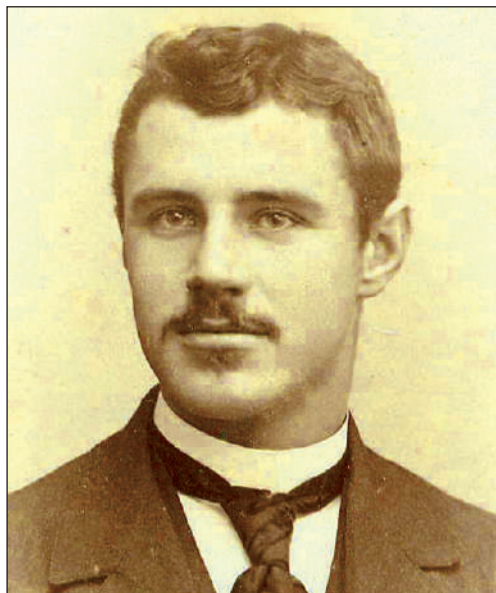
On October 2, 1900 he married Johanna Damen (*Klundert 1874) in Klundert. Their children Marinus (*1901), Antonius (*1902) and Hendrika (*1903) were born in the Sint Maartenspolder. In January 1905 the family went to Zevenbergen, where, according to the population register, he was an innkeeper. Daughter Antonia was born there in August 1905.

On May 11, 1907 Gerardus van Aken left for Rotterdam without his family and boarded the Nieuw Amsterdam heading for the US. On the passenger list he indicated that he was a hotelier in Zevenbergen and was traveling to his brother Cornelis in Butte, Montana, who was a pastor of the St. Joseph's church. Gerardus declared that he had 100 dollars on him.

He went to help his brother Cornelis van Aken in his search for suitable land for future Brabant emigrants.

In September 1907 they found land near Strathmore, Alberta, Canada. Gerardus van Aken went back to the Netherlands, returning with the first batch of emigrants from West-Brabant in March 1908. He brought them to





Gerardus van Aken (1874-1934).

the still to be developed Dutch colony. His wife and children remained in Zevenbergen for the time being. It took another five years for Gerardus to have his wife and their three youngest children Antonia, Hendrika and Antonius come over to Canada in October 1913. They were accompanied by Herman van Aken, the youngest brother of Gerardus and Cornelis. Herman had originally left with the first group of emigrants in March 1908, but apparently he had returned and now he was going back to Canada again.

In 1914 Gerardus van Aken and Johanna Damen lived in Essondale, near Vancouver. Their youngest son Cornelius was born there in August 1914. In March 1917 Gerardus left Essondale with his wife and children heading for Blaine, Washington, with final destination being Eureka, Montana, US. He was registered there in 1918.


In 1920 the family was mentioned in the census of Yakima, Washington, US. Gerrit van Aken, working in horticulture, did not yet have his own home, but he was renting one.

In 1921, he completed the Declaration of Intention to apply for US citizenship. On the form he stated that he was a gardener and as a specific characteristic he mentioned a scar on his left hand caused by a bullet. How that scar had come about was not explained.

In April 1930, Gerrit and his wife and three sons lived a few kilometers further on in Harwood. He was still an orchardist just like his eldest son George. The home the family owned and where George was also registered, was worth about 4,500 American dollars. However, it was very unlikely that George was still living in his father's home. It so happened that he had married in 1922 and his wife were living in California. Gerrit van Aken died in 1934. In 1940 only Jeanette van Aken-Damen and son Antoon were still living in Harwood. Mother Jeanette Damen died in 1957.

The eldest son **Marinus** (George) van Aken did not join his mother and the other children in following their father to Canada. At that time he was staying

No 86900



Anton Cornelius van Aken
 Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court,
 at Yakima this 10th day of February
 anno Domini 1938 Certification No. 24 7314 from the Commission
 of Immigration and Naturalization showing the lawful entry of the
 declarant for permanent residence on the date stated above, has been received
 by me. The photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a like-
 ness of the declarant.

A. A. LeFRANÇOISE
 Clerk of the U. S. District Court.
 By Thomas Langner, Deputy Clerk.

Form 2262-1-A 14-2023
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
 IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

Anton van Aken
 Anton Cornelius van Aken

Part of the application for naturalization by Antonius van Aken, 1938.

(www.ancestry.com)

at the Juvenaat H. Hart in Bergen op Zoom. In August 1915 he left Heeswijk and traveled to his uncle Cornelis van Aken in Whitefish, Montana, US. When fourteen-year-old Marinus arrived on Ellis Island on August 16, 1915, he was separated from the other travelers by the American authorities for a special hearing, as he was under the age of sixteen and traveling alone. After nine days he was finally allowed to move on. From Whitefish he immediately traveled to Essondale, British Columbia, Canada, where his parents were living at the time.

Marinus, in the US he called himself George, submitted his Declaration of Intention on March 5, 1920. He was then eighteen years old, a butcher, unmarried and living in Seattle, Washington, US. On September 21, 1922 he married Jean Lewis (*Trail, British Columbia, Canada 1902) in Yakima, Washington. At that time he was a lumberjack. The reason for him submitting another Declaration of Intention on September 7, 1926 is unclear. By that time he was an animal breeder. It did not specify what he was breeding. On May 1, 1930, George lived with his wife Jean in La Crescenta, California, where his request for naturalization was officially approved on December 26, 1930.

It is unclear whether George Van Aken's marriage to Jean Lewis ended due



to death or divorce, but he married Effie (Elsie) Hacker (*Jamaica 1898) in Los Angeles on January 14, 1942. She had two sons from a previous marriage. In 1955 they lived in Yakima, Washington. George died in Yakima on February 28, 1962 when he lost control of his car on the White Pass Highway and



crashed down an 80-meter-high mountainside. At that time he was a manager at the State Tax Commission. His wife Effie Hacker died in 1994.

Antonius (Antoon) still lived with his mother in Yakima in 1938 when he completed his naturalization application. He was not married at that time. He died in 1991.



Daughter **Hendrika** (Henriëtte) van Aken was married in Walla Walla, Washington on October 30, 1929 to the electrical appliances tradesman Elmer Joseph Rongerude (*Minneapolis, Minnesota 1902) who lived in Yakima. In 1930 they lived in Spokane, Washington. Henriëtte applied for naturalization in 1937. She was a stenographer, living in Yakima again. According to the 1940 census, Henriëtte still lived in Yakima and worked as a maid. Her husband Elmer lived in Los Angeles, California at that time. They most likely got divorced shortly thereafter. In fact, in both the Yakima and Los Angeles census of 1940, the M for "married" was crossed out for both of them. In 1950 Henriëtte traveled with the Atlantic from New York to Naples for a threemonth stay in Europe. Henriëtte van Aken died in 1984. Elmer Rongerude had already died in 1976.

On July 28, 1928, **Antonia** (Anna) van Aken married Walter Schurman in Seattle, who was an electrical goods trader and eleven years older than her. In 1930 they lived with their daughter Dolores (*Yakima, Washington 1929) in Yakima. Anna submitted the application for naturalization on August 29, 1935. She was by then also mother of son Bruce Paul (*Yakima, Washington 1932). In 1940 Walter and Anna still lived with their daughter and son in Yakima. He still sold electrical appliances and she was a stenographer. Coincidentally or not, they had the same professions as Antonia's sister Henriëtte van Aken and her husband Elmer Rongerude. Walter Schurman died in 1965 and Anna van Aken died in 1997.



The youngest son **Cornelius van Aken**, who was born in 1914 in Essondale, British Columbia, Canada, married Dorothy Eva Smith (*Sandy, Oregon 1915) in 1935. When he applied for naturalization in 1937, they had no children yet. In 1940 they lived with their daughter Jeanette, born in 1939, in Grandview, near Yakima. At the time he worked as manager for a petroleum

manufacturer. Cornelius van Aken died in 1973. His wife Dorothy Smith reached the age of 97 and died on August 15, 2012.



Egidius Bartelen (1864-1940) and his wiife

Jacoba Rijnvos (1857-1923) and their children

Johanna (Jean or Jenny, 1889-1968)

Adrianus (Joe, 1894-1986)

Paulus (Paul, 1896-1984)

Antonia (1899-1988)

Egidius Bartelen was born on December 2, 1864. He was the son of the widow Johanna Bartelen (*Hoeven 1824). She had married Egidius van Rijsbergen (*Oudenbosch 1824) in Hoeven on September 23, 1843, who died in 1860 at the age of 35. Five daughters Antonia, Johanna, Jacoba, Cornelia and Catharina van Rijsbergen were born from this marriage. Day labourer Johanna Bartelen and her five daughters were left behind. They moved from Sint Maartenspolder to Brede Balrouw 29c. In January 1870 Johanna Bartelen married Cornelis Rommers. Egidius Bartelen continued to live with his mother and stepfather until he left in September 1878 to be a servant for shoemaker Johannes de Crom in the center of Hoeven. Between 1882 and 1888 he worked as a farmhand in Oud Gastel, Oudenbosch and Hoeven.

On July 23, 1888, Egidius Bartelen married Jacoba Rijnvos in Oudenbosch. She was the daughter of Adriaan Rijnvos (*Oudenbosch 1808) and Catharina van den Maagdenberg (*Etten 1815) and was born on November 27, 1857 in Oudenbosch. In October 1888 they moved to St. Bernardusstraat 11 in Hoeven. At that time he was a laborer. Their children Johanna (*1889), Adrianus (*1890, †1891), Paulina Catharina (*1892, †1892), Adrianus (*1893, †1894), Adrianus Antonius (*1894), Paulus (*1896) and Antonia (*1899) were all born in Hoeven. Three of the seven children died very young. In 1908 the then 43-year-old farmer Egidius Bartelen, encouraged by the wonderful sto-



Frozen feet

Around 1915 Egidius Bartelen had found work in a lumberjack camp in British Columbia. This meant that mother stayed behind with the children. Shopping had to be done on foot because the horses had strayed from the ranch. Mother Jacoba Bartelen-Rijnvos suffered from asthma and son Paul went on foot to Strathmore, seven kilometers away to get medicine. In Strathmore he was advised not to return on foot as the temperature had reached 50 degrees below zero. Although he only wore thin shoes, he went back. He barely managed to reach their house because his feet were completely frozen. His feet never completely healed.

ries of pastor Cornelis van Aken, decided to emigrate to Canada. He was convinced that he would have better opportunities there for his growing family.

Egidius, his wife and their four children Johanna, Adrianus, Paulus and Antonia were all registered on the Ottawa passenger list on September 10, 1908. The ship took them from Liverpool to Montreal, Quebec. The final destination of the Bartelen family was Akenstad near Strathmore, Alberta, Canada. At the same time, the brothers Jacobus and Josephus Voermans and their families had also left for Akenstad. Although they were born in the municipality of Etten-Leur, their parental home at Sprangweg 32 fell under the parish of St. John the Baptist in Hoeven. Therefore, the Voermans brothers grew up in Hoeven and also went to school there. Jacobus Voermans had probably been in the same class in primary school as Egidius Bartelen.

How the Bartelen family managed on the Canadian prairie has been explained by son Paul and daughter Antonia Bartelen in *The English Colony Nightingale and District* in 1979.

A new Democrat

When Egidius and his wife went to collect a new four-seater carriage (a Democrat) in Strathmore, they had an accident. On the way home, a nut loosened from a wheel and the carriage flipped over. The carriage was completely destroyed. For Egidius and Johanna the damage was limited to scrapes and bruises.

When the three Hoeven families finally arrived by train in Calgary, they were welcomed by pastor Cornelis van Aken, who brought them to Strathmore. Once there, Egidius went looking for the best plot of land he could find. He used a shovel for turning the soil here and there. His choice fell on a plot with an irrigation canal running through it, northeast of the intersection between Township Road 250 and Range Road 243. A small house was built there in the winter of 1908/1909. Until the house was ready, the three families from Hoeven and the four brothers (Chris, Herman, Gerardus and Cornelis) van Aken lived in one house; a group of ten adults and eleven children in total. Living conditions in Akenstad were minimal. The only means of transport they had was a horse or a horse and cart. There was no school and no church yet.

Father Egidius and his sons Adrianus (Joe) and Paulus (Paul) went to work for the CPR irrigation project that had just started. They placed many kilometers of fencing along the canals in the Crowfoot and Glenrose districts. The income from this work gave them a good start. Because none of them spoke English they could barely participate in social life and loneliness was a problem they had to learn to live with. Other problems were the intensely cold winters and the millions of mosquitoes in summer. Immigrants had to be strong in those days.

In the first ten to fifteen years of their life in Canada, no large-scale farming had been done yet. Daughter Johanna (Jean) Bartelen worked as a maid in Strathmore. Egidius and sons Joe and Paul were busy with construction work for the CPR as well as for the Canadian National Railway (CNR) in Beynon, Rosebud, and Wayne, Alberta. They also dug ditches for irrigation. They earned Can\$ 40 a month for ten hours of hard work a day.

In 1916 the Bartelen family had saved enough to start their own farm. Because the Alberta government had introduced the so-called Wild Land Tax, many US land speculators sold their Canadian lands. Egidius Bartelen had to pay around 50 Canadian dollars per hectare. The existing buildings were moved to this new land and they had a very good harvest that year.

Completely unexpectedly, Jacoba Rijnvos died in March 1923 after having lived in Canada for 15 years. She was 65 years old. Father Egidius Bartelen worked until 1926. Then he went to live with his daughter Antonia, who lived a few kilometers to the north with her husband Marcel Verweire.

Egidius helped build the Church of the Sacred Heart in Strathmore and in 1927 he donated a bell to commemorate his deceased wife. That church bell had been made in Douai in France and weighed nearly 160 kilograms. The bell had hung in the bell tower of the church until it was demolished in 1949. In 1953 a new church without a bell tower was inaugurated. The bell hung from the roof of the church, but was too heavy for the roof construction and caused many leaks. That is why the clock was removed from the church and



mounted on a set of arches next to the church. On the clock are the names of Bishop Kidd, Father Dougan, as well as those of Egidius and Jacoba Bartelen. Egidius was also a member of the Knights of Columbus. People called him "senator" because he was very similar to senator Pat Burns. Egidius Bartelen died in Strathmore on February 27, 1940.

Daughter **Johanna** (Jean or Jenny) Bartelen married Walter Keeler (*Scarborough, Ontario, Canada 1886). He had been living in Strathmore since 1909. They had eight daughters and five sons: Margaret (*1911), Odella (*1912), Mary, Stephanie, Joseph, Pauline, John, Jacob, William, Antoinette, Helen, Anna and Fred.

Walter Keeler died in July 1940 shortly after he fell ill. His wife Johanna Bartelen died on June 30, 1968. She died at the age of 78 and at the time of her death all thirteen children, 40 grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren were still alive.

Adrianus (Joe) Bartelen married Celina Verweire (*Bouchaute (B) 1902) in December 1924, a sister of Marcel Verweire who married Antonia Bartelen on the same day. In 1926 the young couple bought a farm four miles north of Cheadle, Alberta. In 1943 they even bought a second farm from the Rae family and rented it out. Joe naturalized to a Canadian citizen on January 7, 1936.

Joe Bartelen and Celina Verweire had four daughters and three sons: Anton (*1925), Clarence (*1927, †1932), Mary (*1929), Helen, Viola, Alice (*1939) and Clarence. Sorrowful was the death of their five-year-old son Clarence in 1932. While playing on a hay wagon, he accidentally slid off the wagon down a hole, where his head got stuck between two boards, causing his neck to break. Because he had been playing on his own, nobody saw the accident happen.

Joe Bartelen died at the age of 91 in 1986 and his wife Celina Verweire in 1988.

After the brother and sisters of **Paulus** (Paul) Bartelen were married, he stayed behind as a lonely outsider. After a long courtship he married Maria Claeys on April 6, 1926. It was a cold, gloomy day. The old Ford Model T was to serve as wedding car, but sadly enough its wheels got stuck in the mud due to the frost. Their house was built in the fall of 1925 and the new furniture was purchased in Calgary. As a wedding gift, he gave his bride a beautiful cooking oven that was still in use 52 years later. Immediately after their wedding they went on a honeymoon to Eastern Canada. After the honeymoon, the bride traveled directly from Montreal to Belgium where she visited her mother for three months. The lonely groom Paul returned to Strathmore to bring in the harvest and to finish the new house.

Joe's unlucky horse

Around 1920, Joe bought a young mare for Can\$ 200 at an auction near Strathmore. For some reason the horse had a long rope on its halter. No one had noticed it at first until the horse was frightened by something. As it started to rear Joe got his wrist caught in the rope. He was dragged a few meters before the rope came loose. Fortunately Joe remained unharmed. However, something worse happened when he was sowing in the spring with a hired worker, each with a six-horse team. The new mare, together with five other horses, was in the worker's team. Suddenly the animal fell down. It could not get up anymore and was dragged to the barn. A veterinarian from neighboring Gleichen found that the mare had died of meningitis.



Joe Bartelen with his two oldest sons Anton and Clarence on a grain mower/binder pulled by four horses around 1930.

(Photo collection Bartelen family, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)





*On the far right with tie is Adrianus (Joe) Bartelen around 1930.
(Photo collection Bartelen family, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)*



*Group photo of the Bartelen-Verweire family around 1930. In front are Celina Bartelen-Verweire and her husband Joe Bartelen with their two children Anton and Clarence. Right behind Joe his father Egidius Bartelen with hat.
(Photo collection Bartelen family, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)*



*Celina Bartelen-Verweire in front of their Pontiac around 1928.
(Photo collection Bartelen family, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)*



*The threshing machine of the Bartelen family in 1926.
(Photo collection Bartelen family, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)*





Joe Bartelen at work with his tractor around 1930.

(Photo collection Bartelen family, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)



Joe Bartelen and his farmhand harvesting in the late 1930s.

(Photo collection Bartelen family, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)

On January 6, 1928, they were both granted Canadian citizenship. Paul and Maria had three children, son Edmond and the daughters Leonie and Leona. Leona would later enter a monastery in Toronto. Paul and Maria Bartelen-Claeys certainly knew their share of hardships and disappointments. The most horrendous was the sudden death of their six-year-old daughter Leonie on August 9, 1933. She was standing in the back

Facing death

In the summer of 1920, Joe and Paul Bartelen were plowing about three kilometers south of their farm. Around noon their youngest sister Antonia brought them lunch with the old Ford Model T truck. To reach them she had to go through a one-wire fence. Antonia lifted the wire and passed underneath. When Paul had to go home to pick something up, he tried to do the same. Unfortunately, the wire fell off the posts and got stuck underneath his chin. Paul was pulled out of the truck and fell to the ground behind the car. Luckily it was an open truck without a roof, otherwise he would not have survived.



of her father's car next to a partially open window, when it collided with another car. The Bartelen family's car tipped over and fell on the daughter. She died instantly. In the car were also mother Maria, her son Edmond and Leonard Van Tighem. None of the other occupants were injured. The judicial inquiry revealed that it was an accident and no one was found guilty. The damage to the cars was limited because they had been driving slowly. In November 1952, Paul Bartelen gave up farming and sold all 81 head of his Hereford cattle at an auction. Paul and Maria then decided

The church of Strathmore with the bell of the Bartelen family still in the bell tower in 1949.

*(Photo collection
M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen,
Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)*





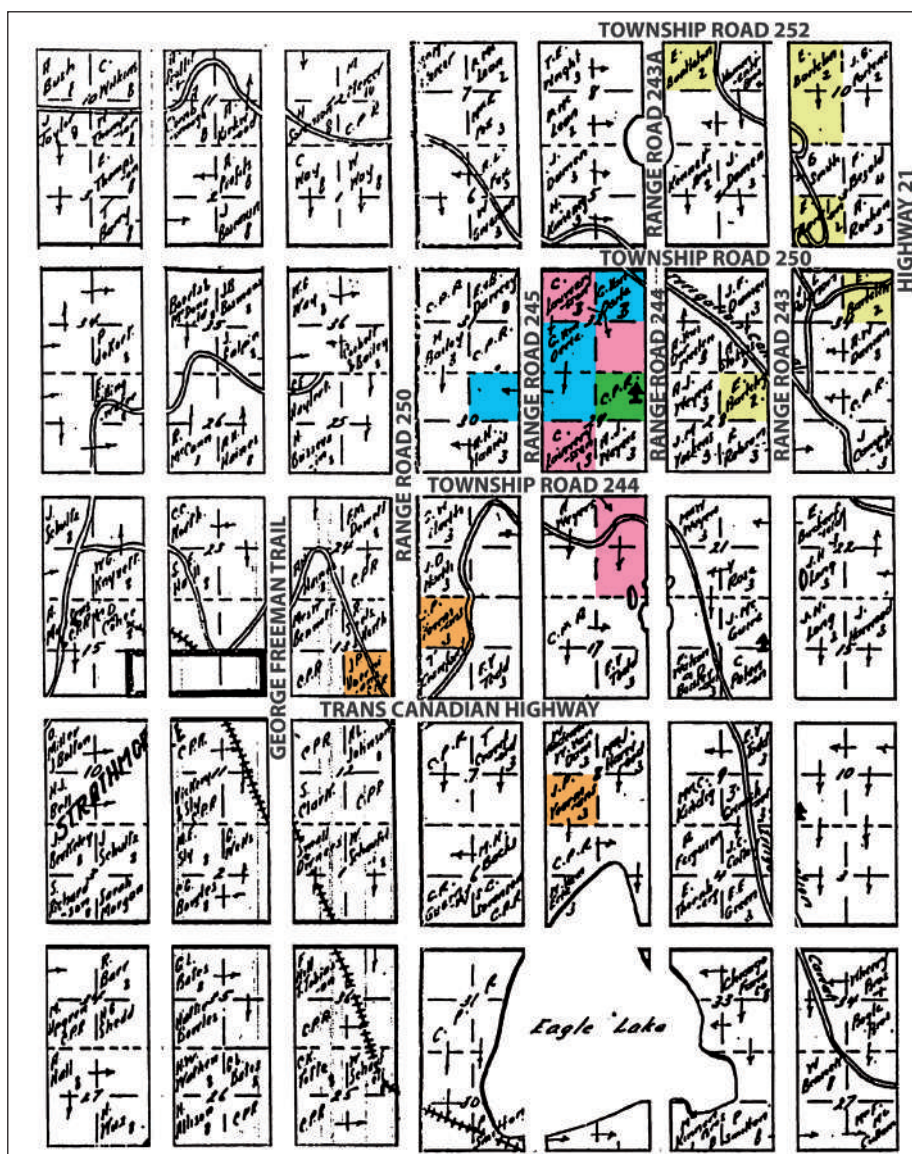
The bell of the Bartelen family on specially constructed arches next to the church of Strathmore in 2008, the church without a bell tower.

(Photo collection M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)






to move to Calgary. They celebrated both their 50th (1976) and their 55th (1981) wedding anniversary in Calgary. Paul Bartelen died in Calgary on November 8, 1984. His wife Maria Claeys died ten years later, at the age of 92.

In December 1924, **Antonia** Bartelen married Marcel Verweire on the same day his sister Celina married her brother Joe. Marcel had emigrated from Antwerp via St. John in Canada to Strathmore in April 1913 with his parents, brothers Fien and Edmond and sisters Celina, Mary and Pauline. Their older brother Prosper was already living in Strathmore at that time. Marcel and Antonia started farming on a rented farm. In 1927 they bought the farm of Egidius Bartelen in the Nightingale district. They worked on their farm until 1954, when they retired and moved back to Strathmore. They had three children: Odella, Edmond and Mary.

Marcel Verweire died on March 18, 1970 and Antonia Bartelen on March 15, 1988.



The Hoeven landowners and the school in Akenstad near Strathmore in 1918.

	Cornelis Lauwerijssen		Josephus Petrus Voermans
	Gerardus van Oerle		School
	Egidius Bartelen		



Etten inhabitants within Hoeven

The couple Josephus Voermans (*1838 Etten) and Petronella Catharina van Loon (*1841 Hoeven) married in 1863 and went to live on Sprangweg 32. At the time that was still part of the municipality of Etten-Leur, but it was within the parish of St. John the Baptist in Hoeven. That is why the emigration of their two sons has been included.

Josephus and Petronella had eleven children. One child was stillborn in 1864. They had six daughters, Adriana (*1863), Lucia (*1867), Anna Dimphena (*1871), Jacoba Johanna (*1873, died at the age of three), Antonetta Johanna (*1880) and Angelina (*1881, who lived for only three months), and four sons: Jacobus Josephus (*1865), Adrianus Josephus (*1869), Josephus Petrus (*1874) and Ludovicus Johannes (*1877). Father Josephus was registered as a farmer and bartender in the population register.

Undoubtedly encouraged by the recruitment campaigns of pastor Cornelis Van Aken, the sons Jacobus and Josephus Voermans emigrated to Strathmore with their families in September 1908.

Jacobus Voermans (Jac, 1865-1935) and his wife

Anna Maria Klep (Mary Ann, 1873-1949) with their children

Johannes (John, 1896-1973)

Petronella (Nelly, 1897-1970)

Josephus (Joe, 1899-1989)

Anna Maria (Mary, 1900-1985)

Andreas (Andrew, 1903-1968)

Adrianus Jacobus (Adrian or Jack, 1904-1985)

Laborer Jacobus Voermans married Anna Maria Klep (*Etten 1873) in 1895. They moved to Hoevenseweg 45 in Etten-Leur. Johannes Baptist (*1896) and Petronella Catharina (*1897) were born there. In 1898 they moved to Lage Donk 15 in the municipality of Etten-Leur, but still within the parish of Hoeven. At this point he was a farmer. He leased the farm of Jacobus and Cornelis van Eekelen. Their children born here were Josephus Adrianus (*1899), Anna Maria (*1900), Cornelis Jacobus (*1901, who died at only two months old), Andreas Jacobus (*1903), Adrianus Jacobus (*1904), Hendricus Ludovicus (*1905) and Adriana Lucia (*1906). The last two both died at just two months old. In 1907, the same year that Adriana Lucia died, they had another stillborn son.

After these sad events, Jacobus Voermans, 43 years old, his wife Anna Klep and their six remaining children decided to try their luck in Canada. Together with his brother Josephus and his family, and the family of Egidius Bartelen, they were the first three Hoeven families who, inspired by the lectures of Cornelis van Aken, made the crossing.

They departed from Liverpool on September 10, 1908 on the steamship

"We have loved her during life,
let us not abandon her until we
have conducted her by our prayers
into the house of the Lord."

—St. Ambrose

Pray for the Repose of the Soul of



Mary Ann Vaermans

BORN OCTOBER 13, 1873

DIED JULY 5, 1949

O, gentlest heart of Jesus, ever
present in the Blessed Sacrament,
ever consumed with burning love
for the poor captive souls in Pur-
gatory.

Have Mercy on the soul of Thy
handmaid.

Merciful Jesus, grant her eternal
rest.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have
mercy on her.

(Seven years and seven quaran-
tines.)

DE PROFUNDIS

*Prayer card of Anna Maria Voer-
mans- Klep. (Photo collection
F. Takx, Etten-Leur)*

Ottawa bound for Montreal, Quebec in Canada. After a long train journey, they arrived in Strathmore. The three families temporarily moved in with the Van Aken brothers who had been staying in Strathmore since March 1908. It was no more than a barn in which 21 people lived. On September 30, 1908 the CPR had sold plot SW-3-25-24-w4, a total of 148 acres (almost 60 hectares), to both the brothers Jacobus and Josephus Voermans and Egidius Bartelen. This was the plot that Egidius Bartelen had chosen as the best option upon his arrival. The CPR noted down that this purchase was uncertain because it concerned a joint purchase. The three men had to pay a total of Can\$ 3,117 (almost 22 Canadian dollars per acre) for 90 acres of irri-

gated land (Can\$ 25 per acre) and 57.8 non-irrigated acres (Can\$ 15 per acre). In 1918, Egidius Bartelen was the sole owner of this plot.

On December 16, 1912, in Strathmore, the family of Jacobus and Anna Voermans was expanded with the birth of another son Jacobus (Jake).

At the beginning of 1914, Jacobus (Jac) and his family were living near Vancouver in Chiliwalk, British Columbia, Canada. On March 24 of that year, they left from Chiliwalk via the Dumas border crossing to join Cornelis van Aken in Whitefish, Montana, US.

In April 1914 son Cornelius was born, but he died eight months later of pneumonia. He was buried in the Catholic cemetery in Columbia Falls, Montana on January 3, 1915.

In 1918, Jac and son Joseph were registered in Roseburg, Oregon, US,



where they worked at the Roseburg Canning Company for Ignatius van der Bom. The eldest son John was also registered there and daughter Petronella (Nellie) married Herman van Aken in Oregon in 1917. The family had probably moved to Oregon around 1916 and back to Whitefish before 1920 as the family including six children was registered in the Whitefish census in 1920.



The Voermans-Klep family in Montana was doing well. In June 1928, father and mother went with their son Joe and his wife to visit Jacobus' brother Josephus in Calgary. The local newspaper wrote about this and reported that the Voermans family was one of the most prominent farmers. They owned one of the best hay and grain farms in County Flathead, Montana, on which they had just built a new house with eight rooms.

The Voermans family still lived in Whitefish in 1930 and had a dairy farm there.

On March 31, 1935, when Jac Voermans was almost seventy years old, he died as a result of stomach cancer.

In 1940 mother Mary Ann lived here with her son Adrian. Brother Andrew and his wife Dorothy Voigt also lived here.

On July 5, 1949, Mary Ann Klep died of a cerebral haemorrhage. She was buried in Whitefish on July 8.

The eldest son **Johannes** (John) Voermans moved with his parents from Chiliwalk to Whitefish in 1914. Around 1916 he moved to Roseburg, Oregon. On June 5, 1917 he was registered in nearby Creswell, where he worked on a farm. He then moved to Eureka, Montana in 1918. In 1920 he returned to Whitefish and ran a farm there until his death. Between 1942 and 1957 he also worked for the Great Northern Railway. On July 3, 1928 in Columbia Falls, Flathead, Montana he married Mabel O. Garr, born in Whitefish in 1910. As far as we know, they had no children. John died on August 19, 1973 from a stroke. In

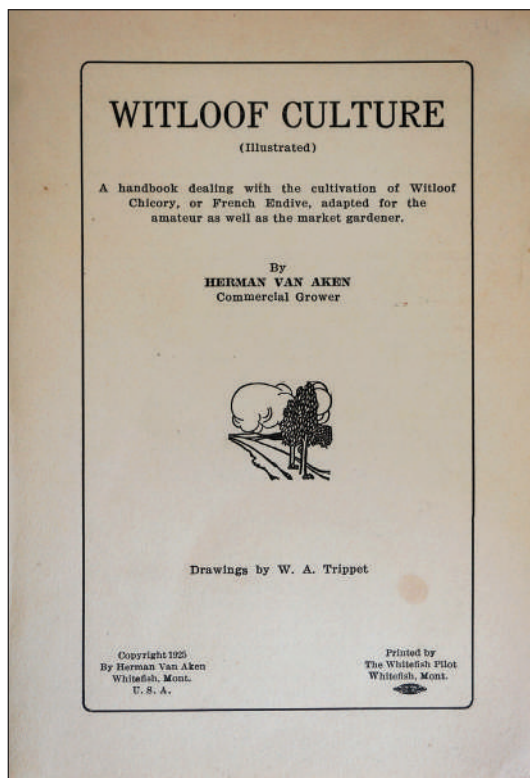


1992 the same happened to Mabel O. Garr.

Petronella (Nellie) Voermans married the eleven years older Herman van Aken (*Langeweg 1886), a brother of pastor Cornelis van Aken, in Eugene, Oregon in 1917, at the age of 20. They had known each other since she was 11 when the Voermans family lived with the Van Aken brothers in Strathmore. They had two children: Mary (*Eugene, Oregon 1918) and Pete van Aken (*Eureka, Montana 1920). Herman died in 1933, 46 years old. He was one of the most prominent men in the region, as was mentioned in an In Memoriam in the Montana Butte Standard. Herman had been trained by the best horticulturalists in the Netherlands and had also studied in Brussels. He established the Van Aken Gardens three miles south of Whitefish, where among other things, French endive was being grown. This was served at all Great Northern dinners. He had also specialized in the cultivation of fine celery. At the dinners, elegant brochures were placed on the table so that guests could read how, where and by whom these products had been grown.

On April 5, 1940, Nellie Voermans married Matthew (Matt) Raiber (*Hutten (D) 1904). She also survived her second husband because he died in 1965, whereas Nellie Voermans died on August 29, 1970 of a cardiac arrest. Earlier that year she had visited the Netherlands with her sister Mary.

Son **Josephus** (Joe, George) lived in Roseburg, Oregon in 1918 where he worked in a canning company. In 1926 he married eleven years younger Doris Sindt (*Plentywood, Montana



The Billings Gazette of Saturday October 14, 1950 reported the death of Jake Voermans.

1910). They had three sons Joe (*1927), Jack (*1928) and Jake (*1931). In 1940 they lived in Whitefish, where Joe was a dairy farmer.

The youngest son Jake was killed in action on September 24, 1950 near Seoul in Korea. He was a corporal in the US Army. Shortly before his death he had written to his parents that he had already been wounded twice and that of his 48-man platoon only three had survived, including himself. He was buried in Whitefish on June 12, 1951. In 1976, Joe and Doris celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Joe Voermans died in Whitefish on September 11, 1981 at the age of 82. His wife Doris Sindt died in 2011. She was 100 years old.

Daughter **Anna Maria** Voermans married Anton Braig in Polson Lake, Montana on February 2, 1936. He was 30 years old and was born in Heufelden (D). They had two sons: Jacob and Robert. Anna and Anton had a farm on which they kept turkeys and dairy cattle. They also cultivated grain. Anna Maria Voermans died on July 10, 1985, her husband in 1989.

Montanan Killed

Whitefish, Oct. 13.—(P)—Corporal Jake Voermans, 19, was killed in action September 24 while fighting with his marine unit near Seoul, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Voermans were advised Friday. The young marine had previously been wounded twice in Korean campaigns. He told of these wounds in a letter to his parents before his death. He stated he had been hit in the shoulder and again in the hand and that of an original platoon of 48 men only two others and himself survived.



On June 10, 1939 36-year-old **Andreas** (Andrew or Andy) Voermans married sixteen years younger Dorothy M. Voigt (*Elbowoods, North Dakota 1918) in Whitefish. They had a son Andrew William (Bill) (*1947) and two daughters Marlene (*1940) and Margaret. Until 1951, Andrew ran the dairy farm in Whitefish. He later specialized in fattening Hereford cattle. Andrew Voermans was just 65 years old when he died in 1968. At the time of her death in 2010, Dorothy was almost 92 years old.



Adrianus Jacobus (Adrian or Jack) Voermans, 30 year old, married 18-year-old Kathryn Peck (*Whitefish, Montana 1918) on June 26, 1935. They had a daughter Barbara (*1937) and a son Adrian (*1938). Father Adrian applied for divorce in 1943 and was assigned custody of the two children. His second wife Rosie Hruby (*Eureka, Montana 1918) was also a divorcee. They married in 1946 in Cut Bank, Glacier, Montana. They had two sons Robert (*1947) and Dennis (*1948). Dennis was only a year old when he suffocated in his bedding and died.

Adrian Voermans died on July 5, 1985 in Kalispell, Montana. He was still a dairy farmer at the time. Rosie Hruby died in 2008.

Jacobus Voermans, born in Canada, found his true love when he met Alice Lonegon (*Kalispell, Montana 1910). They married on April 4, 1937 in her birthplace. Whether they had children is unknown. Jacobus Voermans died on September 12, 1995 and Alice Lonegon in 2002.

Josephus Voermans (1874-1942) and his wife

Adriana Buijnsters (1867-1945) and their son

Josephus (Joe, 1908-1996)

Josephus Petrus Voermans was the eighth child of Josephus Voermans and Petronella van Loon. He lived with his parents on the corner of Heul and Sprangweg (now Sprangweg 32) until he was thirty-two when he left for Roosendaal on March 29, 1907. He was married there on January 23, 1907 to the seven years older shopkeeper Adriana Cornelia Buijnsters (*Etten 1867). She was the daughter of farmer Johannes Buijnsters (*Princenhage



ALBERTA

Belangstellenden.

Wij de ondergeteekenden, eigenaren van 160 Acres (64 H.A.) in Zuidelijk Alberta, bij Akenstad, Stratmore, verklaren in geweten, dat de grond, door ons gekocht, bestaat uit een bovenlaag van tuinaarde en een onderlaag van chocoladekleurige kleigrond, zooals door Pastoor VAN AKEN in zijn lezingen werd voorgesteld. De oogsten, die wij rondom ons op het veld gezien hebben, komen onze beste verwachtingen tegemoet en verklaren wij, dat tot dusverre wij niet zijn teleurgesteld en dat wij van Pastoor Van Aken steun en advies hebben ondervonden tot ons beste belang. Het land in onze omstreken wordt zoo gretig opgekocht, dat volgens officieele verzekering, ons gegeven tusschen April en October 1908, meer dan 90 000 acres zijn verkocht aan Amerikaansche boeren, meestal uit den Staat van Noord-Dakota. Wij geven eenieder het recht van dit schrijven gebruik te maken.

(get.) JAC. VOERMANS, Etten.
E. BARTELEN, Hoeven
JOSEPHUS VOERMANS, Roosendaal.

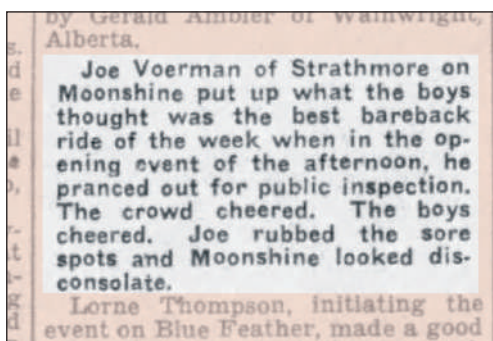
Origineel van dit schrijven ligt ter inzage bij den Vertegenwoordiger. Sluit U aan op de reis van einde Februari.

Vraagt inlichtingen gratis bij den Vertegenwoordiger

Emile Wustefeld, Zutphen.

After the families of Egidius Bartelen and the brothers Jacobus and Josephus Voermans arrived in Strathmore at the end of September 1908, this message appeared in the Roosendaal newspaper De Grondwet on November 29, 1908. Apparently they were quickly convinced of the quality of the soil. Or was it part of the advertising campaign of Cornelis van Aken?

1825) and Ida van der List (*Etten 1831). The couple first went to live with her parents on the Achterstraat. In November 1907 they bought a shop and a small house with a yard and shed for 3,150 guilders. These buildings were on the corner of Hofstraat and Kalsdonksestraat in Roosendaal. Josephus Petrus Adrianus Antonius was born there on April 5, 1908. At the end of August of that year, vegetable merchant Josephus Voermans put his possessions up for sale because of the approaching emigration to Canada. Because a total of merely 2,750 guilders was offered for the real estate, he sold only



In the Calgary Daily Herald of July 31, 1931 the results of the finals of the annual Calgary Stampede were mentioned. Joe Voermans (junior) finished second in the "bareback bucking horse riding" category and received \$ 200.

his movable goods for 277 guilders and 45 cents and the small house for 900 guilders. He rented out the shop with shed, barn

and yard. It was not until November 1912 that he sold the rest of his real estate in Roosendaal for 1,560 guilders and paid off his mortgage. Because the rent of 2 guilders and 25 cents a week did not quite cover the interest costs of the loan, he suffered a loss of 690 guilders on these properties in Roosendaal.

On September 10, 1908 Josephus Voermans left with his wife and son, the family of his brother Jacobus Voermans and the Bartelen family from Liverpool on the steamship Ottawa for Montreal, Quebec. It was noted on the passenger list that Josephus was a laborer.

Like the Bartelen family Josephus Voermans continued to live in the area of Strathmore. His brother Jacobus moved with his family to the Vancouver area in 1913 and from there to Whitefish, Montana, US in 1914.

In 1918 Josephus already owned three plots of 160 acres, which corresponds to more than 190 hectares.





CANADA

AS JE BLEEF HIER
IS DE CANADEESCHE FARM
UW TOEKOMST?

WAT ZEGT GIJ DAARVAN?

OVER LAND EN PASSAGE
GEVEN WIJ BETROUWBARE
INLICHTINGEN GRATIS:

JOH. OTTEN & ZOON ROTTERDAM
AMSTERDAM

GENERAAL AGENTEN DER
CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

An example of advertising for emigration to Canada as it appeared in various Dutch daily and weekly newspapers around 1910.

Forthcoming FARM AUCTION SALES

MONDAY, APRIL 11th at 11 a.m.

J. P. VOERMANS

6 miles South and 2½ miles West of Strathmore
Full line of good farm machinery and equipment. 48 head of
yearling steers and heifers. 1 yearling Angus bull. 40 tons hay.
Tools, etc.

Phone 3060, High River, Alta. "FARM SALES A SPECIALTY"

28 Year's Experience

Weekly Sales Every Saturday at 12 Noon

HIGH RIVER AUCTION MART LTD.

Office Phone 3022, High River

In the Calgary Daily Herald of April 2, 1960 was an announcement of the sale of all livestock and agricultural machinery and tools from the farm of Josephus Voermans (junior) on April 11.

In 1921 he lived on the NW-18-24-24 plot about two miles east of Strathmore and half a mile north of the current Trans Canadian Highway.

In 1928 his brother Jacobus Voermans and his wife Anna Maria Klep came to visit from Whitefish. They had set up a successful dairy farm there after 1914.

Joe Voermans (senior) died on June 10, 1942 and was buried in Strathmore. After a visit to the church, he wanted to visit his wife who was in the hospital. Upon leaving the church, Joe collapsed and died before he arrived at the hospital.

In July 1946 Adriana Voermans-Buijnsters went on a return visit to her brother-in-law in Whitefish. She died in Strathmore on October 6, 1946.

In 1950 Joe Voermans and his wife Lauretta Blais and their two children visited their cousin Andy Voermans in Whitefish. Although the distance between the two places was nearly 500 kilometers, the two families had regular contact.



Son **Joe** Voermans described his life in Canada as follows:

"I arrived with my parents from Roosendaal at the end of September 1908. There were two other families with us, a total of seventeen people. Winter had started quickly and due to a lack of time and money to build a house we all lived together in a building of 14 by 28 feet (4.5 by 7 meters). You couldn't call it a home, it was no more than two sheds nailed together. The thermometer dropped to minus 65 degrees that winter. And without coal, it is needless to say that we had more hardships than happiness. Groceries had to be carried on your back for nine miles across the windy prairie. In that open space many battles had to be fought between man and beast, because the cattle roamed freely everywhere. That cattle mainly belonged to Pat Burns. For the next two years my father worked for the CPR: digging ditches, putting up fencing and cutting down trees, in Moyle, British Columbia. The trees were intended to be used as sleepers for the railroad. My father bought his first "quarter" (64 hectares) of land two miles east of Strathmore and farmed it until 1926. Then he bought another farm north-east of Carseland, Alberta, about 26 kilometers south of Strathmore. In 1939 they retired and went to live in Strathmore.

In October 1939 I married Lauretta Blais (*Springfield, Massachusetts, US 1917) from Gleichen and continued farming on the parental farm. We had two children. Daughter Arlene (*1942) married Tom Hildahl in 1963. They had a daughter Judy. Tom died after a long-term illness on January 12, 2003. Our granddaughter Judy (*1964) married Jeff Wutzke in 1995.

Our second child was Leonard. He married Gail Bjornson from Innisfail and worked as a pilot. She worked for an airline until her retirement. They lived in Strathmore.

I spent my childhood helping out at my father's farm and riding rodeo on Sundays. Fortunately, these rodeos turned out to be more laughable than dangerous. From 1929 to 1932 I took part in various rodeos and also in the annual bareback bronco competition in the Calgary Stampede. Later I started playing the saxophone and performed at various dance parties and other meetings. In 1960 I sold my farm (in the Cairnhill area) to Harold Downey due to poor health and we moved to Strathmore."

Lauretta Voermans-Blais wrote about the time she was living with her husband in Strathmore. "After we had moved to Strathmore, Joe worked for the Imperial Oil and UFA bulk stations. I



worked as a chef for the Circle L Service Station which is now Husky and the Wheatland County Inn. Joe was involved in the rodeo community, organizing and judging the youth and professional rodeo in Strathmore. Joe played the saxophone and performed in the Carseland Hall. I later played drums. Music was a big part of our lives. After our retirement we enjoyed our garden and I focused on painting. We have good memories of Carseland, such as hauling in the grain in the silos, dancing in The Hall and curling till the early hours. We enjoyed the Carseland community and the years on our farm."

Joe Voermans (junior) died on May 9, 1996 in Calgary. His wife Lauretta Blais on September 14, 2009.

New Westminster, British Columbia

Ignatius van der Bom (Ignace, 1874-1948) and his wife

Anna van Oerle (1877-1930) with their children

Petrus (Peter, 1903-1971)

Maria (Mary, 1905-1977)

Johannes (1907-1981)

Alphonsus (1908-1943)

Ignatius van der Bom was born as the tenth child of the Oudenbosch tree nurseryman Johannes van der Bom (*Oudenbosch 1822) and Isabella van der Reit (*Goes 1833) on March 21, 1874 in Oudenbosch. Before he got married, he had spent several months in Prussia in Germany and Farnwick in England for his education. He married Anna Maria van Oerle on May 13, 1902, daughter of grocer Wilhelmus van Oerle (*Hoeven 1839) and Maria Wilhelmina Lauwerijssen (*Hoeven 1841). Anna Maria was born in Hoeven on November 24, 1877.

Ignatius van der Bom robbed

Newspaper *De Grondwet* of August 26, 1906 contained the following message.

'According to the newspaper *Dagblad van Noord-Brabant*, Mr. I. v.d. B. was robbed in Hoeven last night. Various gold objects were stolen, including a pair of gold ladies' necklaces, a gold ladies' watch, a gold gentlemen's chain, and a pair of gold earrings and a brooch. The police, who were quickly informed of what had happened, conducted a thorough investigation and seemed to be on track of the perpetrators.'



Surrey Nurseries, Limited

We are pleased to inform the public that Mr. P. W. Crankshaw, of Sardis, has been appointed our agent for Chilliwack Valley. Our line of FRUIT TREES and SMALL FRUITS of all kinds is COMPLETE and of the HIGHEST GRADE. We are making a SPECIALTY of ROSES and of rare, hardy, ORNAMENTAL TREES and SHRUBS, imported direct from HOLLAND, BELGIUM and FRANCE. Our PRICES are RIGHT. SEE MR. CRANKSHAW or his representative BEFORE YOU BUY.

Surrey Nurseries, Limited,

628 CoLumbia St., New Westminster, B.C.

J. H. CURTIS
IGN. VANDER BOM } Managers.

In an advertisement in The Chilliwack Progress of July 6, 1910, four months after Ignace van der Bom had arrived with his family in New Westminster, Ignace was already mentioned as manager of the Surrey Nurseries, Limited.

Ignatius was a tree nurseryman. Ignatius and Anna went to live at St. Janstraat 33 in Hoeven. They had four children there: Petrus (*1903), Maria (*1905), Johannes (*1907) and Alphonsus (*1908).

According to the Hoeven population register, Ignatius van der Bom left Hoeven without his family on February 22, 1909 to go to Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He had presumably heard, via the propaganda by Cornelis van Aken, that there was a lot of good land for sale at attractive prices. He would also have heard the positive stories of the Bartelen and Voermans families in Hoeven. Moreover, Oudenbosch and the surrounding area was becoming overcrowded with members of the Van der Bom family who all started tree nurseries. One of Ignatius' cousins, Henricus (Harry), a son of uncle Piet van der Bom, had founded the maple nursery Maple Farm in Bosschenhoofd in 1890. Ignatius may have foreseen a lucrative collaboration with his cousin. Maples were abundant in Canada. It is therefore not surprising that the leaf of this tree is shown in the flag of Canada. Cornelis van Aken and some other Dutch people were passengers on the Ireland, which left on February 26, 1909 from Liverpool for St. John in Canada.

On January 1, 1910 Ignatius returned to Hoeven to collect his family to emigrate to Canada. He had decided against Calgary and the surrounding area.

BULBS!

BULBS!

BULBS!

Imported Direct from Holland

Holland-grown Bulbs are the Best

GUARANTEED TO BE FIRST-CLASS

Choice selection of Tulips, Hyacinths, Daffodils, and all kinds of other Bulbs, including Gladiolus, Monbretias, Ixias, Crocus, Lilies, etc.

If you want the right flowering Bulbs, apply to

IGNACE VANDER BOM

South New Westminster

who will show you at any time his collection of beautifully colored plates.

Just drop a card.

Ignace van der Bom imported all kinds of flower bulbs from the Netherlands as appears in this advertisement in The Chilliwack Progress of May 31, 1911.

Growing trees on a prairie with its long harsh winters and dry hot summers was not a good plan. So on February 22, 1910 the family moved to the westernmost part of Canada, to New Westminster, British Columbia, just southeast of Vancouver, which has a temperate maritime climate like that of the Netherlands. Ignatius van der Bom may have been here a year earlier in his search for suitable land for a tree nursery.

Together with Ignatius van der Bom's family, Gerardus van Oerle, a brother of Ignatius' wife Anna Maria, and Adrianus Hoeks also left Hoeven for Canada. Adrianus Hoeks went to New Westminster. Gerardus van Oerle went to Strathmore. Upon arrival in New Westminster, Anna Maria van Oerle must already have been pregnant because daughter Isabella was born there on October 1, 1910.

How the Van der Bom family fared in the first few years has been reconstructed on the basis of various newspaper reports about Ignace van der Bom, as he was called in Canada.





The office staff of the Botanical Gardens in Essondale in 1914. From left to right: I. van der Bom (gardener), J.A. Wattie (assistant botanist), Miss M. Gruchy (herbarium assistant) and J. Davidson (botanist).

(Second Annual Report Botanical Office of the Province of British Columbia, 1914)

In *The Chilliwack Progress* of November 30, 1910 there is a small notice about the activities of Ignace. As a landscape architect and manager of a tree nursery in Surrey, he was in Chilliwack, British Columbia, trying to sell his garden shrubs. The residents of this town were probably going to beautify the gardens around their homes because, according to the notice, he managed to bring in many orders.

Apparently, Ignace liked this valley, because in the same newspaper of May 10, 1911 it was said that he was negotiating with various landowners to buy land to start a tree nursery there. According to him, the soil was extremely suitable for it. On October 4, 1911 it was all happening. Ignace was back to witness how the land along the river The Vedder, near Yarrow Station, was being prepared and built on for the construction of his new tree nursery. At the end of October / beginning of November he tried to arrange for a road to be built from the tree nursery to the highway. This was not without a hitch,



Front and reverse of a token that Ignace van der Bom put into circulation. These could only be used to purchase products from his company.


CAMELLIAS
OVER 250 NEW VARIETIES
TO SELECT FROM
 at a nursery that specializes in
 bringing to Oregon and Wash-
 ington residents the best avail-
 able for this climate.
CAMELLIAS Blooming Now!

Daphnes, Azaleas, Rhododend-
 rons and Other Evergreens
Camellia Catalog Now Available

PORTLAND
CAMELLIA
NURSERY
P. L. Vander Bom
3307 NORTH WILLIAMS AVE.
 Open 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.
 Daily and Sunday
 On Williams Ave. Bus Line

Portland Camellia Nursery

OVER 300 VARIETIES OF CAMELLIAS
 TO SELECT FROM



CAMELLIA CATALOG
 1946 to 1947

"Camellias the Jewels of the Garden Make
 Everlasting Gifts for Any Occasion"

P. L. VAN DER BOM, Proprietor
 3307 NORTH WILLIAMS AVENUE
 PORTLAND 11, OREGON

Peter van der Bom advertised his camellias in The Coos Bay Times of April 2, 1946. His catalog with more than 300 varieties of camellias will have attracted plenty of customers.



because some landowners had to give up some of their land for this. Finally, they agreed as long as they could also sell other parts of their land.

That Ignace could turn his hand to more than just trees is clear from the report in *The Chilliwack Progress* of August 7, 1912, which mentioned that he was involved in dairy farming on Graham Island. A week earlier he had bought 23 cows in Colebrook near Surrey. He was very enthusiastic about the quality of the land on the more northerly island off the west coast of Canada. According to him, the soil was even better than that in the famous Fraser Valley in which Chilliwack was also situated. In any case he must have been on Graham Island for a few months because on February 27, 1913 he returned to the United States by boat via Prince Rupert, British Columbia. Tree grower Chris van Aken, a brother of Cornelis van Aken, accompanied him on that journey. What the two men were planning to do in the US is unknown.

In 1913, Ignace van der Bom was appointed gardener at the first botanical garden in Western Canada situated in the gardens of the mental hospital in Essondale, British Columbia. He continued to work there to everyone's satisfaction with his botanical knowledge until 1918. He earned 100 dollars a month plus free accommodation, including heating, lighting, furniture, laundry, and vegetables. Jacobus van Meel from Hoeven, who had worked for Ignace at Surrey Nurseries, came to work there as well.

From a message in the *News Review* of June 25, 1918 it became clear that in April 1918, Ignace had moved from Vancouver, Canada, to Roseburg, Oregon, US, where he was going to set up a seed and tree nursery. According to Ignace, the seeds of the native trees had great commercial value. He said that collecting the seeds from the local maple, oak, honeylocust (alias thorny locust or gleditsia), wild rose and other varieties within this group could become very profitable. Besides that, he was also going to trade in farm and garden seeds.

In the *Roseburg Review* of July 10, 1919 there is an advertisement of the Roseburg Seed and Nursery Company, later renamed the Roseburg Canning Company, of which Ignace van der Bom was the manager. In the advertisement he offered strawberry, raspberry and blackberry plants of the best quality for sale, but also different kinds of loganberries (a cross breed between a raspberry and a blackberry). Black, red and white currant plants, gooseberries, asparagus, rhubarb and walnuts were also part of the assortment; quite a shift in direction for a tree nurseryman.

In 1920, Ignace and his wife lived in Orenco, 300 kilometers north of Hillsboro, Oregon. His next home town was Riverton, Oregon, closer to the coast and more southerly, where he was living when his brother-in-law Wilhelmus van Oerle came to visit in February 1922. That same year he moved back to Hillsboro.

In the *Hillsboro Argus* of December 28, 1922 there is a report that Ignace van



Although the date is not mentioned on this tombstone, Ignace van der Bom died in 1948.

der Bom was a hazelnut specialist. He had sent a large number of prospecti to farmers in the Portland area explaining the hazelnut culture. According to him, hazelnut

farming would be a good business in the region.

Ignace van der Bom and Anna Maria van Oerle continued to live in Hillsboro, Oregon until their death. She died in 1930 and Ignace van der Bom on October 9, 1948.

Their children Petrus, Mary, Johannes, Alphonsus and Isabella were sent to the Netherlands to be educated at the end of 1914 when they were eleven, nine, seven, six and four years old, respectively. Where Peter went is not known. In October 1920, coming from Oudenbosch where he had probably lived with his uncle Piet van der Bom, he returned to his parents who were living in Orenco, Oregon at that time. The eldest daughter Mary was old enough to go straight to a girls' boarding school in Oss. The three youngest children went to Steenberg. It is still unclear where they actually stayed. Did they go to the St. Joseph orphanage or did they stay with relatives or acquaintances?

Peter van der Bom came from Oudenbosch to Oregon in October 1920. He founded a successful camellia farm in Portland, Oregon, where he also grew rhododendrons and azaleas. He married Ginevra Griffith on May 24, 1929 (*Spokane, Washington 1911). The marriage ended but it is not known why. In 1941 he married Dorothy Voterbek (*Lander, Wyoming 1918).

Peter van der Bom died on August 4, 1971 in Portland. Dorothy Voterbek died on February 12, 2005.

The eldest daughter **Mary** van der Bom was registered in Oss on January 6, 1915 in the Sint Leonardusgesticht, a girls' boarding school run by the sisters of Charity from Tilburg. On July 27, 1918, she left for Austria. In the early 1920s she stayed at the Liefdesgesticht of the sisters of the Allerheiligste H. Hart van Jezus in Lage Zwaluwe. On March 7, 1922 she traveled with her sister Isabella via New York to their parents in Orenco, Oregon.

On April 8, 1926, Mary married truck driver Eldor Henschke (*Wakefield, Nebraska 1895). She died on April 14, 1977 in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Her husband Eldor Henschke died there on January 12, 1970.



Son **Johannes** van der Bom remained in Steenberghe until January 1918. He then moved to Maasbree with his brother Alphonsus. From there they went to stay with Lucia Takx-Voermans at St. Janstraat 36 in Hoeven on March 14, 1919. A few months later (on June 3, 1919) they left for Heythuysen in Limburg, where boys' boarding school Stokershorst offered training in forestry, horticulture and cattle breeding. It could be that the boys were sent to this boarding school for further training in forestry.

On July 10, 1930 Johannes moved from Haaren to live with his uncle Piet van der Bom in Oudenbosch. He left there on October 17, 1932 for Oss. Until at least 1937 he was a sexton-gardener there and lived on Monsterstraat 1. Then he returned to his birthplace Hoeven and started a small tree nursery on Sprangweg 41 below Etten-Leur. Johannes van der Bom died here on May 23, 1981.

Alphonsus van der Bom also stayed in the Netherlands. He married Adriana Antonetta Akkermans (*Teteringen 1916) on June 29, 1937 in Teteringen. They went to live at Chasséstraat 22 in Breda. In 1938 they had a son Matheus. Office clerk Alphonsus van der Bom died at the age of 35 in Dinther on August 18, 1943.

Daughter **Isabella** van der Bom was born in Canada and came to the Netherlands with her brothers and sister at the end of 1914. In January 1915 she was officially registered in the population register in Steenberghe. In January 1918, when she was only seven years old, she went from Steenberghe to the Sint Leonardusgesticht, the girls' boarding school in Oss, where her older sister Mary was also staying. She came to live with her aunt Maria Dorothea van Spaandonk-Van der Bom in Oudenbosch on August 30, 1920. Together with her sister Mary she traveled on the Nieuw Amsterdam from Rotterdam via New York to their parents in Oregon on March 7, 1922. Isabella married George Englund on July 1, 1937 in Douglas, Oregon. She died on December 24, 1999.

Adrianus Hoeks (Adrian, 1874-1946)

Adrianus Hoeks also left Liverpool with Ignatius van der Bom and Anna van Oerle's family, on the Empress of Britain, traveling via St. John in Canada to New Westminster, British Columbia on February 25, 1910. Ignatius van der Bom had probably already agreed in Hoeven that he could come over and work for him in the tree nursery.

Adrianus Johannes Hoeks was born on July 29, 1874 in Hoeven. He was a son of innkeeper Johannes Hoeks (*Hoeven 1830) and Antonia Maria Schrauwen (*Hoeven 1846) who lived on Hofstraat 23. Johannes and Antonia were married on May 12, 1868 and had seven daughters and five sons there.



Fourth from the left with spade Adrian Hoeks at work at Surrey Nurseries Limited in New Westminster in 1911.

(Photo collection family archive Van de Pas-Hoeks, C. van de Pas, Born)

Two children were stillborn. Adrianus Johannes was the fifth child and the second son of the fourteen children. When their last child was stillborn, Johannes was almost 62 years old and Antonia 46 years old.

Adrianus was a laborer. He did not look for employment close to home. From 1894 onwards he worked successively in Maastricht, Waalwijk, Tilburg, Antwerp, Kalmthout, Zevenbergen and again in Antwerp. He stayed in these places for six months to a year at the most. From 1905 he lived at home in Hoeven until he left for Canada in 1910.

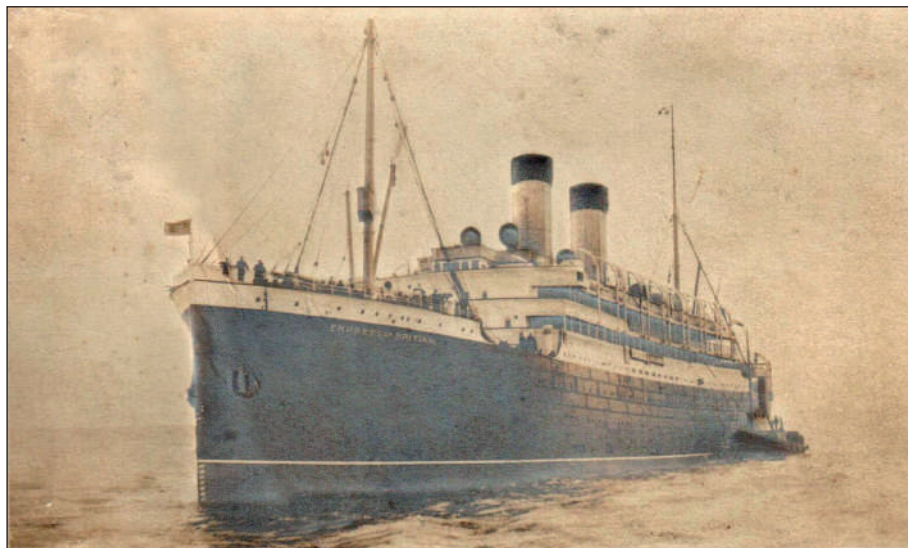
On the boat he met Bernardus Goedkoop (*Rindern (D) 1884) who had left Teteringen for Canada. Together they went to work at Surrey Nurseries Limited, where Ignatius van der Born was the manager.

A number of letters and postcards that Adrian Hoeks had sent to his relatives between 1910 and 1917 have been preserved.

More than a month after his arrival, he wrote to his mother that he drove a pair of horses in a tree nursery and earned five guilders a day.

The next letter that was saved dates from March 12, 1911. Adrian had been ill for a while but had recovered by then. The winter had been mild, 'you could not walk on the ice'. He still worked at the tree nursery where he now earned six guilders a day. After the summer he wanted to buy a piece of land together with Bernard Goedkoop, but not in the same area because the land was too expensive there (1,000 to 5,000 guilders per acre). 'Then we will start





The Empress of Britain with which, Adrianus Hoeks and many others made the crossing to Canada. This CPR ship was built in 1905 and could carry 310 first-class passengers, 470 second-class passengers and 730 passengers between decks. The Hoeveners traveled second class.

(Photo collection family archive Van de Pas-Hoeks, C. van de Pas, Born)

a little tree nursery and then we will keep some chickens, they also raise some money in Canada, and then we have a cow or two and a few pigs then we live cheaply. If we feel like eating pheasant or deer or some other game, then we can shoot that ourselves'. Jacobus van Meel had been with them and had told them that he would return to the Netherlands after the summer. In February 1912 Adrian Hoeks and Bernard Goedkoop left for Graham Island, where they settled on the northernmost point of the island in Masset. Had they been tipped by Ignace van der Bom to go to Graham Island, where he himself saw a future in cattle breeding?

On September 15, 1912 Adrian sent a letter from Masset to his mother in Hoeven. During the summer he and Bernard had slept in a tent, but in the fall they would build a house of stacked tree trunks with a roof. Life was very cheap because food was plentiful. "During the week I shot 5 grouws (black grouse). They are just like chickens and taste well." They had already earned some money. That was necessary to get through the winter. In the spring they would prepare the soil to plant potatoes, because they were terribly expensive. He sent a five-dollar bill 'to buy a tasty gingerbread'. As soon as he had earned more he would send her more.

At the end of January 1913 he wrote to his brother Piet. He thanked him for the letter he had received. The winter had not been too cold and they had



Street view of Vancouver, British Columbia around 1915.



The wedding photo of Adrian Hoeks and Annie Hamblin 1918.

*(Photo collection
family archive Van de Pas-Hoeks,
C. van de Pas, Born)*

already started clearing the grounds to plant the potatoes. On January 8, 1914, Adrian again wrote to Piet from Sewall just south of Masset. He was doing well and he was planning to buy some more land so that he would have a total of 200 acres. He thought that was enough to live well. He promised to visit Hoeven within three years. Bertus Goedkoop was on his way to the Netherlands and he hoped that he would come back with "a party of people". They could use them well.

Less than a month later, Adrian





*Adrian Hoeks and Annie Hamblin
with their three children around
1924.*

*(Photo collection
family archive Van de Pas-Hoeks,
C. van de Pas, Born)*

wrote to his brother-in-law baker Piet van de Riet, who was married to his sister Johanna Hoeks. Adrian was worried about Bertus Goedkoop who had still not arrived in the Netherlands. Bertus had written to him that he hoped to be in the Netherlands around Christmas or New Year. Adrian was afraid something had happened to him in Montana. He knew that the population there was rather "wild" and he might have been hit by a bullet.

Adrian was also concerned about the introduction of women's suffrage in America. He was afraid that all inns would be closed.

At the end of 1914 he wrote to his mother from Woden River on Graham Island. He was not doing too well financially now that the war had broken out. Everything had come to a stand-still and prices had risen. Luckily there was enough to eat from his own land and game that could be shot everywhere. Adrian asked his mother to ask brother Piet and brother-in-law Van de Riet to write more so that he could keep track of how the war was going. Adrian did not trust the reporting in the English-language newspapers.

Almost a year later, on October 29, 1915, Adrian wrote from Woden River to his brother Piet. He asked him again to write to him, because no letter had arrived from the Netherlands. Maybe the letters had gone missing in the mail because of the war. Things were still going badly in Canada. Trade stood practically still and many Englishmen had left "to fight for their native country". He himself had already registered with the English but wanted to wait a bit before leaving. After the war he wanted a woman from Breda to come over, a girlfriend of Bertus Goedkoop's wife, who occasionally wrote to him and she seemed to be a nice girl. Bertus' wife had written that he would then have a good "pot cooker", because he was rather tired of cooking himself.

In August 1916 Adrian was drafted into the Canadian army and left for England. He was part of the 114th company of the Canadian Forestry Corps (CFC), an army unit that was specifically responsible for felling trees needed for all kinds of structures at the front. The CFC initially operated in Canada, but due to logistical problems, the activities were relocated to England.

On January 2, 1917, Adrian Hoeks wrote from England where he was stationed. He was not allowed to write anything essential about his situation, because then the letter would not arrive. As soon as the war was over, he would return to Canada, but first he would stop at Hoeven.

The last saved letter was dated December 16, 1917. Adrian was still in England and had met a "nice" girl he wanted to marry. He would send a portrait and certainly come and introduce her in Hoeven after the war.

On April 6, 1918 Adrian Hoeks married Annie Hamblin (*Epsom, England, 1894), who was twenty years younger, in Cobham, Surrey, England. Together they went back to Graham Island in 1919. It is not known whether they visited Hoeven.

Adrian Hoeks, his wife Annie and their 1-year-old daughter Mary were listed in the 1921 census. According to this overview, Adriaan had come to Canada in 1910 and was nationalized in 1916. His wife had come to Canada in 1919 and had not yet been nationalized. They had three children. After Mary (*1920) they had another son and a daughter.

Adrian Hoeks died of arteriosclerosis in Masset on September 8, 1946. His wife Annie Hamblin died of metastatic breast cancer on May 26, 1955. Her death certificate was co-signed by her daughter Mrs. Ole Andersen.

Strathmore again

Four bachelors

Gerardus van Oerle (Gerrit, 1875-1945)

The unmarried Gerardus van Oerle left for Canada in February 1910 together with Ignatius van der Bom's family and bachelor Adrianus Hoeks. He was a brother of Ignatius van der Bom's wife.

Gerardus van Oerle did not travel with his sister and her husband Ignatius van der Bom to New Westminster, but had got off the train in Strathmore to join pastor Van Aken's Dutch colony.

The Voermans and Bartelen families had arrived there from Hoeven a year and a half earlier.

Gerardus van Oerle was born on May 23, 1875, the son of grocer Wilhelmus van Oerle (*1839) and Maria Wilhelmina Lauwerijssen (*1841). He was the third child in the family with three girls and four boys. The sisters Paulina (*1873) and Cornelia (*1876) died at the age of thirteen and almost eighteen,





A Chevrolet Superior from 1925. Whether Gerrit van Oerle bought such a new model or an older version is unknown.
(www.wikipedia.org)

respectively. Mother Maria van Oerle-Lauwerijssen had died earlier in 1884 when Gerardus was not even nine years old.

On June 4, 1889, Gerardus, fourteen years old, left for Princenhage. He was registered there as a baker with H. van den Boogaert in the village of Beek. He returned to his father on September 16. He then lived and worked in Terheijden, Roosendaal, Overschie and Antwerp. In 1901 he returned to Hoeven and stayed there until he emigrated to Canada in February 1910. By then he was nearly 35 years old. Presumably he was persuaded by Ignatius van der Bom to go with him to Canada. However, in 1979 his son William (Bill) van Oerle told in *The English Colony Nightingale and District* that Gerardus had friends in Oregon in the US, who had asked him to come there. He was said to have visited Oregon before 1910. There had been a lot of talk about the opportunities that existed in the Calgary area.

Gerrit, as he called himself in Canada, immediately found a job at the CPR in Strathmore building fences along the railroad tracks. There were many insects in the camps where the workers slept, and they were bitten at night. Once the oil lamps had been turned off in the evening, these insects appeared from between the boards and crawled towards the ceiling. As soon as they detected rising breath, they fell down onto the bedding and found their sleeping victims. The exhausted men often had a lot of bites before they



A Case-L tractor from 1929. This version is still without pneumatic tires.

(www.wikipedia.org)

awoke from their sound sleep. The moment someone turned on the light, the insects would rush out of sight, hiding behind the boards.

In 1911 Gerrit bought a quarter of land (64 hectares) and some small buildings and tools next to where the Pals family from Princenhage had settled a year earlier. In 1912, Gerrit married his fifteen years younger neighbor, Dingena Cornelia (Dena) Pals (*Princenhage 1890), daughter of Martinus Adrianus Pals and Anna Maria Jansens. Before emigrating Marinus Pals had been a miller in the tallest mill in the Netherlands in Princenhage. The family had emigrated to Strathmore in February 1909 with the third group of pastor Van Aken's Dutchmen.



On April 17, 1913 Gerrit and Dena had a son William (Bill) van Oerle, followed by their daughter Anna on October 29, 1914. In the meantime, Gerrit had bought his father-in-law's farm in 1914, who had moved with his family to Castor, Alberta, 230 kilometers north-east. Dena helped on the farm with milking the many cows and taking care of the calves. Gerrit was always working with the horses on the land. Their grain went mainly to Nightingale, five miles away. Most years were good except for 1917 when a heavy hailstorm destroyed most of the crops. The buildings were also damaged. All the windows were destroyed and the hailstones were clattering between the pans and plates of food on the table. In 1918 Gerrit van Oerle owned four quarters or 256 hectares of land. Because Dena wanted to live near her parents and relatives, they moved to Castor in 1920. Moreover, the soil there did not have to be irrigated and the risk of hailstorms was much smaller. They bought a farm ten kilometers south of Castor with another 256 hectares of land. Gerrit and Dena had to work hard to cultivate that land. The 23 cows were milked by hand. Gerrit bred harness horses and race horses with which he participated in riding competitions in the surrounding area. In 1925 he bought his first car, a Chevrolet, and in 1929 his first tractor, a Case model L. Dena Pals died in 1942 and Gerrit van Oerle in 1945.

Son **William** (Bill) worked at his father's farm and bought his first quarter of land in 1939. In 1942 he married Vera Large (*West Devon, Prince Edward Island 1912). In 1944, Bill planted 565 small spruce trees that eventually grew into the most beautiful farm fence in Alberta. In addition to growing wheat, coarse grain grass seed and hay, they also had a large herd of Aberdeen Angus. They had been supplying registered yearlings, heifers, two-year-old bulls and cows to farmers in the area for 25 years. In 1964 they sold the entire 1,200-hectare farm and moved to Edmonton, Alberta. Vera went to work in education there and in 1970 Bill became a driving instructor. Bill and Vera had a son Terry (*1943) and a daughter Claire (*1944). Bill died in 2005 and Vera in 2008.

Daughter **Anna** van Oerle, who was a very popular teacher in Castor, married Charles Nichols in July 1938 and went to live 230 kilometers north of Castor in Clandonald, Alberta. They had three sons Tony, Patrick and Donald and three daughters Mary-Anne, Elaine and Irene. Anna died in 2003. Her husband Charles preceded her in 2000.

Wilhelmus van Oerle (Willem, 1883-1952)

Wilhelmus Hendrikus van Oerle was the youngest in the family of grocer Wilhelmus van Oerle and Maria Wilhelmina Lauwerijssen. He was born on October 18, 1883 in Hoeven. He emigrated on July 16, 1910, a few months after his brother Gerardus and sister Anna, on the Dominion from Liverpool to Strathmore. He was a butcher at the time, having worked as a butcher in Etten, Tilburg and Steenberg from November 1901 till June 1910.

The brothers Gerardus and Wilhelmus van Oerle are mentioned in the census of 1911, together with Cornelis Lauwerijssen (also from Hoeven) at the same address in Strathmore. Cornelis had just arrived to see if emigrating would be an option for him.

Willem van Oerle did not hold on for long in Strathmore. On April 2, 1915 he departed from the port of Victoria, British Columbia, to the Schaufeli family in Palo Alto, California. This Dutch family from Uft in the Achterhoek had come to Strathmore in 1911 and had already left for California earlier in 1915. At the same time the family of Johannes Geerts, with eight children, who had already emigrated from Ulicoten to Strathmore in 1909, moved to Palo Alto.

In the Calgary Daily Herald of March 12, 1921, a number of farm sales were announced for that month. One was by Wilhelmus van Oerle, who offered for sale eleven horses and all his agricultural equipment.



FORTHCOMING UNRESERVEVD

FARM SALES

MARCH 16TH—WEDNESDAY
Instructed by Mr. W. Van Oerle,
near Strathmore, we will sell—
11 head Horses,
All Farm Machinery, Etc.

MARCH 17TH—THURSDAY
Instructed by Mr. Roy Genter,
near Strathmore—
Horses, Cattle,
All Farm Implements, Etc.

If you contemplate having a
Farm Sale, see us for dates.

A. LAYZELL

AUCTIONEER.
BOB THOMPSON, Manager.
Office: 520 CENTRE STREET,
Calgary, Alta. Phone M2273.



How long Willem stayed in California is not clear. He was temporarily back in Strathmore when he offered eleven horses and all his farm machinery for sale on March 16, 1921, apparently with the intention of returning to the Netherlands. Before traveling to Hoeven, he visited his sister Maria in February 1922, who now lived with her husband Ignace van der Bom in Riverton, Oregon in the US.

On January 18, 1923 Wilhelmus van Oerle was officially registered in the population register of Hoeven, living with his brother Hendrik at St. Janstraat 35 in Hoeven. He had arrived in Hoeven before that date. Between September 1923 and June 1924 he stayed in Antwerp.

He may not have been all that happy in Hoeven because nearly two years later, in March 1926, he left from Liverpool for St. John with final destination the King Edward Hotel in Calgary. He indicated on the passenger list that he had lived in Canada between 1910 and 1924. Johannes Rombouts from Hoeven also went back to Canada on the same boat and with the same final destination. This time Willem stayed for eight years, but went back on April 27, 1934. By then he was 50 years old and went to live in the nursing home at Heuvelstraat 3 in Dongen. On December 21, 1934 he left for Grieteweg 7 in Putten, Gelderland. There, at the age of 54, he married Anna Everdina Rijkers (*Hellendoorn 1892) on February 24, 1938.

Willem van Oerle died childless in Putten on January 23, 1952.

Johannes Rijnvos (Joseph or Joe Raenvos, 1882-1942)

Johannes Rijnvos was born in Hoeven at Torendreef 11 on May 28, 1882, the youngest descendant of Willem Rijnvos (*Oudenbosch 1838) and Adriana Hoefnagels (*Etten 1837). Previously, Adriaan (*1869), Gerardus (*1871), Helena (*1873, she had already died in 1890), Adrianus (*1875), Helena Catharina (*1877) and Johanna (*1880) had been born.

Johannes Rijnvos was not an easy boy. Apparently he had a fondness for fighting because in 1906 he was sentenced to six months in prison for mistreatment of a certain C. de M. from Hoeven. During a fight he had stabbed him three times with a large knife. In 1908, he was sentenced to five days imprisonment for carrying a weapon in public. Later that year, he was sentenced to another three weeks in prison, again for mistreatment.

Around 1910 he decided to emigrate to Canada. It is not clear whether he was encouraged to do so by his aunt Jacoba Bartelen-Rijnvos. She and her family had left Hoeven for Strathmore in September 1908.

On April 22, 1910, Johannes Rijnvos departed from Liverpool on the Empress of Britain via Quebec to Strathmore, Alberta. Traveling with him were Hoeveners Johannes Rombouts and Adrianus van Wezel (*1865) and Adrianus Damen (*1890) from Oud Gastel. All four of them were still unmarried. The exact location of Johannes Rijnvos in Canada has not yet been determined.

In this advertisement in the Omaha World Herald of April 9, 1933, Joe Raenvos put his selfgrown shrubs, poplars and maple trees up for sale.

He moved to the US in July 1916. As Joseph Raenvos, he went from Vancouver via Seattle to Butte, in Montana. He was a miner and had worked in the Britannia copper mines about 50 kilometers north of Vancouver. In 1918, he applied for American citizenship in Butte, still unmarried.

Joe Raenvos married Emma Zaring (*What Cheer, Iowa 1885) on June 14, 1920 in Albia, Iowa. He was 39 years old and lived in Omaha, Nebraska, and was a nursery man. Emma was 34 years old and lived in Albia, Iowa. On the wedding certificate, Joe noted that his father was Wm Raenvos and his mother Mary Schmidt. In fact his mother's real name was Adriana Hoefnagels. They had probably asked him what Hoefnagels meant and he would have explained that a blacksmith hits his nails (nagels) into the hooves (hoef) when shoeing a horse. Apparently it was decided to write down the simpler surname Schmidt. It would have been their second marriage for both of them. However no documentation was found on Joe's first marriage. In 1930 Joe was living in Omaha, Nebraska together with his 3-year-old daughter, Mary Jane, who was born in Nebraska. They were still living there in 1940. Joe was now a garden designer. In 1941, Joe caused a collision and had to stand trial for drunk

The Omaha World Herald reported on May 17, 1941 about the lawsuit against Joe Raenvos on the left in the photo. He was eventually acquitted of drunk driving.

HOME-GROWN NURSERY STOCK

Shrubs, 5c to 25c
Lombardy Poplars, 10c, 20c
and 35c

Maples, 10c to 40c
ALL STOCK MUST BE SOLD!
10c Additional for Planting

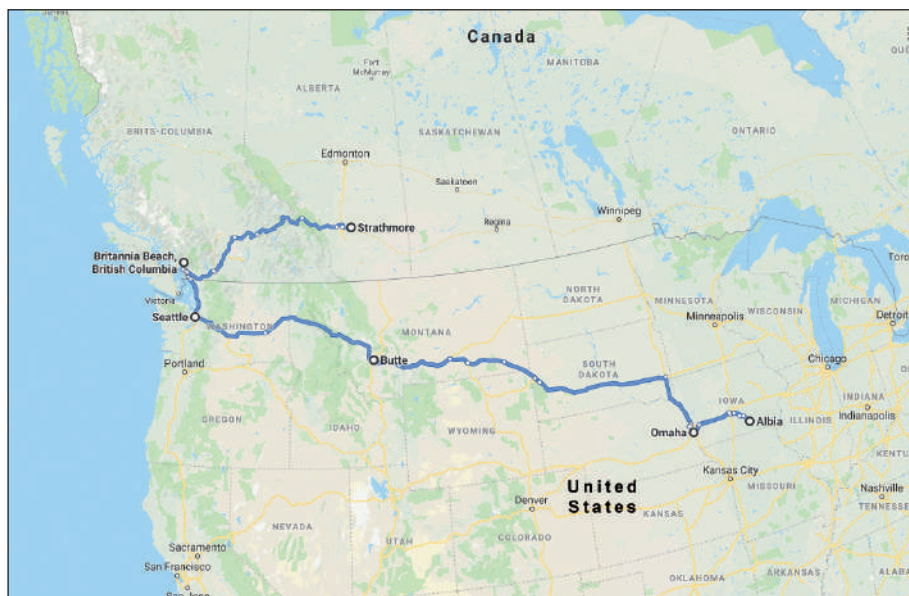
5210 Fontenelle Blvd.
JOE RAENVOS



At Raenvos hearing . . . left to right, first row, Raenvos, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Justman; second row, Harry Flescher, Lt. Earl Sherwood (eyes closed), William Berkheimer, Harold Kelly (partly hidden by Justman), Sgt. Nels Sorenson, William Kaufhold.

**12 Testify He Was Drunk,
but Holmes Dismisses Driver**





Places of residence of Johannes Rijnvos in Canada and the US.

driving. Despite quite a number of witnesses stating he was probably drunk, the judge was not convinced and he was acquitted.

On December 2, 1942, Joe Raenvos died. At that time he was working for the Jewish synagog. His wife Emma Zaring died on October 23, 1946 and was buried in her birthplace.

Johannes Rombouts (John, 1871-1945)

Johannes Franciscus Rombouts was born on May 27, 1871 in Hoeven as the youngest child of Adriaan Antonie Rombouts (*Etten 1822) and Willemijna Floren (*Hoeven 1825), who lived at Brede Balrouw 12 at that time. Adriaan and Willemijna already had three children there: Antonie (*1866), Adriana (*1867) and Johannes (*1870). The last two died at only four months and one month old, respectively. After the death of father Adriaan in 1899, son Antonie, now married to Maria Martens, became the main occupant of the house. They had twelve children there, seven of whom died at a very young age. Brother Johannes Franciscus continued to live with them.

It may have become too busy in the house for Johannes, he was now almost 39 years old and still unmarried, and around 1910 he decided to emigrate to Strathmore, Alberta. On board the Empress of Britain, which departed from Liverpool on April 22, 1910 for Quebec, were Johannes Rombouts, his fellow townsman Johannes Rijnvos, Adrianus van Wezel (*Gastel 1865) and



The train station of the CPR in Strathmore around 1910.

(Photo collection heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven)

Adrianus Damen (*Gastel 1890). Of the two men from Oud Gastel a biography is included in *Strathmore, the village that moved*, but not of the Hoeveners Johannes Rombouts and Johannes Rijnvos. John Rombouts was listed in the 1921 census of Strathmore and worked on the irrigation project at Bow River.

Around 1925 John returned to Hoeven and went to live with his brother Antonie Rombouts at Moleneind. At the beginning of 1926 he returned to Canada. He first went with the Batavier Line from Rotterdam to London. From there he traveled by train to Liverpool. On March 19, 1926, he left for St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. On the passenger list he indicated that he had previously lived in Calgary from 1910 to 1925 and was now on his way to the King Edward hotel in Calgary. On the boat he had Can\$ 1,000 on him. Willem van Oerle also went to the King Edward hotel in Calgary with the same boat.

On November 23, 1929, Johannes Rombouts arrived in the port of Liverpool to permanently return to the Netherlands.

On May 21, 1930, he was officially registered at Moleneindsestraat 38 with his brother Antonie. In 1934 he moved to Moleneindsestraat 7 to his nephew Cornelis Rombouts, a son of brother Antonie, who was married to Jacoba Veeke. Then he went to live with his cousin Antonia Rombouts, married to Petrus Oomen, in cafe Kerkzicht at St. Janstraat 77. His brother Antonie was already living there. Still unmarried, Johannes Rombouts died on December 1, 1945.



Two brothers Lauwerijssen

Cornelis Lauwerijssen (Casey, 1866-1935) and wife

Johanna Engelen (1871-1963) with their children

Johannes (John, 1897-1962)

Cornelis (Corny, 1898-1984)

Johanna (Anne, 1901-1988)

Cornelis Lauwerijssen (*Hoeven 1866) was the second of the total of eight sons and three daughters of Johannes Lauwerijssen (*Hoeven 1833) and Joanna Boomaerts (*Etten 1836). After completing primary school and first helping at home on the farm, Cornelis went to work from 1889 to 1891 as a farmhand to the widow Van de Riet, Sprangweg 11 close to Etten. From 1891 to 1894 he lived at home. In 1894 Cornelis left for Roosendaal to return to Hoeven a year later.

He then went to Roosendaal again in 1896 where he married Johanna Engelen on October 13, 1896. She was born in Roosendaal on June 4, 1871 as the daughter of Johannes Engelen (*Roosendaal 1811) and Adriana Maria van Sundert (*Roosendaal 1834). It seems likely that they had already met in 1894 when he was working in the same street as where she lived. After their wedding they went to Nispen at the intersection of Dorpsstraat and De Lint. Here three children were born: Johannes Laurentius on March 28, 1897, Cornelis on April 8, 1898 and Adriana Maria on April 14, 1900. In 1901 they bought an old farm from Gregorius Hendriks on Heistraat in Hoeven, less than two hundred meters from Cornelis' parental home. The family came to live here on August 14. Johanna was heavily pregnant because on September 1, 1901 daughter Johanna Cornelia was born in Hoeven. Daughter Cornelia followed on March 3, 1903.

In a fire on March 16, 1903 that completely burned the house and barn to the ground, daughter Adriana Maria, less than three years old, died in the flames. Cornelis decided to build a new farm next to the ruins of the old farm, at the current location Heistraat 6. Almost a year later, fate struck again for the Lauwerijssen family. On January 26, 1904 their youngest daughter Cornelia,

just 10 months old, died from pneumonia.

In 1907, Cornelis sold the new farm to his brother Antonius Lauwerijssen. In

HOEVEN, 17 Maart. Gisterenavond te 9 uur is door onbekende oorzaak brand uitgebroken in de landbouwerswoning van C. Lauwerijssen alhier. De woning, schuur, stal enz. zijn geheel afgebrand, terwijl de inboedel eveneens een prooi der vlammen werd. De schade aan het gebouw toegebracht bedraagt f1700; terwijl dit was verzekerd voor f1800 en die van den inboedel voor ongeveer f2500, die ook zijn verzekerd.

Door de vlammen is mede omgekomen een ruim tweejarig dochttertje van genoemden landbouwer.

This short message about the fire at Cornelis Lauwerijssen's was published in the Nieuwe Tilburgsche Courant on March 19, 1903.

J. J. M. Mertens
 Notaris te *Roosendaal*,
 zal op **Vrijdag 21 April 1911**,
 des voormiddags 9 uur, ter herberge
 van **MARIJN DE BRUYN**, voor-
 heen **C. LAUWERIJSSSEN**, nabij het
 Seminarie te *Hoeven*,
publiek Verkoopen :
Voor C. Lauwerijssen voornoemd.
 Den geheelen **Inboedel**, als :
 Meubelen, Huisraad en Herberg-
 inventaris.
Voor Marijn de Bruyn voornoemd.
 12 beste **Gaskal-**
veren.
 2 **Pinken.**
 2 **Kalfvaarzen.**
 20 **Biggen.**
 15 **Loop-**
varkens. 
 2 **Ponneys.**
 1 nieuw Ponneyrijtaig, Suijma-
 chine, eene partij Hooi enz.
 Nieuwe en gebruikte **Rijwie-**
len enz.
 Betaaltijd 1 Januari 1912, doch
 de koopen tot en met f1.50 contant.

In De Grondwet of April 16, 1911 there was an announcement of the sale of, among other things, the furniture of Cornelis Lauwerijssen's café in Hoeven on April 21.

that same year, Cornelis bought an inn in the village, built in 1904, of Adrianus Wilhelmus van Eekelen and he became an innkeeper. Possibly he saw more profit here than to continue farming. The location of the inn was excellent, close to the new seminary Bovendonk, still under construction, where many construction workers found employment. Once the seminary had been completed, the clientele may have fallen off sharply, which could have caused Cornelis to be persuaded by Gerrit van Oerle to try his luck in Strathmore in Canada.

Cornelis left in April 1911 to see what Canada had to offer and he left his family behind in Hoeven. The premises and the furnishings of the inn were sold in April 1911, but Johanna Engelen and the children continued to live there.

Cornelis (called Casey in Canada) went to work in Strathmore on McCarthy's farm and had to work, among other things, with a triple plough pulled by a team of nine horses. He lived with the Van Oerle brothers who had already emigrated in 1910. Although it was hard work, he decided to stay and had his family come over. On March 16, 1912, Johanna Engelen and her three children left with The Dominion from Liverpool to Halifax. There were more Hoeveners on board that ship. Jacobus van Meel, who had already emigrated to the US in 1908, was now going to Canada with his wife Anna Voermans. Shortly after the arrival of his family, Casey Lauwerijssen bought his first 30 acres (approximately 12 hectares) of land. In 1913 he bought his first farm next to the Van Oerle brothers and also rented 56 hectares of pasture. The family milked a few cows and sold the milk to the CPR in Strathmore. In the early years, Johanna also kept the new school in Akenstad clean. In 1917 Casey bought another piece of land on the northeastern corner of the inter-





Johanna Engelen (1871-1963).

*(Photo collection
M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen,
Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)*

section of Township Road 244 and Range Road 245. In 1918 he had a house set down there which he had bought from John Geerts. It took eighteen horses to transport the house. Apart from a few years this farm has always been in the family and is still inhabited by Bill and Mary Hendricks-Lauweryssen, Casey's and Johanna's granddaughter.

At the end of 1920 Casey and Johanna went back to West-Brabant for the first time for family visits.

They stayed there until spring 1921

and brought Johannes Lauwerijssen, an unmarried brother of Casey, and two cousins of Johanna, Petrus Vergouwen (*Rucphen 1895) and Johannes Wagemakers (*Gastel 1898) with them to Canada. Petrus Vergouwen was a son of her sister Maria Vergouwen-Engelen, who lived in Rucphen and Johannes Wagemakers was a son of her sister Wilhelmina Wagemakers-Engelen who lived in Oud Gastel. Johannes Wagemakers returned to the Netherlands after six months. Petrus Vergouwen remained farming in the area of Strathmore. The five had arrived by train in Strathmore in May



*Mother Johanna Engelen between
her sons Corny (left) and John
Lauweryssen, possibly on the
occasion of her ninetieth birthday
in 1961.*

*(Photo collection
M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen,
Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)*



From left to right: an unknown cowboy, Cato Vermunt, John Lauweryssen, Adrianna van Eekelen and Corny Lauweryssen at the farm of father Casey Lauweryssen around 1927.

(Photo collection M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)



The current farm in 2018 at the location where Casey Lauweryssen and Johanna Engelen had started their farm in 1918. Bill Hendricks on an old Ford tractor he has been restoring.

(Photo collection M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)



*Corny Lauweryssen (1898-1984).
(Photo collection
M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen,
Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)*



1921. There they were caught in a heavy snowstorm, something the newcomers had not expected. But Casey reassured them it was not so bad. According to him, it meant a wet year with good harvests. Unfortunately, this prediction did not come true and it was a very dry year.

In 1926 Casey and Johanna Lauwerijssen decided to return to the Netherlands permanently to spend their remaining years there and sold all their belongings at an auction. Their sons John and Corny bought most of the horses and machinery. Corny had already bought his father's threshing machine earlier in

1925. Casey and Johanna arrived in Hoeven on April 30, 1927 and went to live temporarily with Willebrordus, Petronella and Johanna Takx at St. Janstraat 36. They were the children of Lucia Takx-Voermans, sister of the Voermans brothers who had emigrated to Strathmore. Their brother Josephus Takx had left for Strathmore with young neighbor Henricus Vermunt at the end of March 1927.

Casey and Johanna stayed here for less than a month and went to Roosendaal on May 25, 1927 where they had bought the house at Hulsdonksestraat 102. However, they felt homesick for their children and, after 15 years of Canada, could no longer settle in in the Netherlands. They returned in July 1928.

Casey Lauwerijssen died, aged 69, on September 15, 1935. Johanna Engelen went to live with her son Corny for a few years and then moved to Strathmore. When daughter Anne, who was married to Fred Schaufeli, moved to Calgary in 1942, she went to live with them. Johanna remained highly active and enjoyed good health. Even when she was already in her eighties, she still went to church, used public transport, did the shopping, mending and other household chores. She died in 1963 at the age of 92.

Johannes Lauwerijssen (John, 1897-1962) married to
Catharina Vermunt (Cato, 1895-1974)

Two weeks before his fifteenth birthday, in March 1912, Johannes Lauwerijssen left with his mother, brother and sister to join his father, who had been living in Strathmore for a year. He immediately went to work, at the CPR and for his father.

At the end of 1923 he returned to Hoeven in search of a suitable bride. There he found Catharina (Cato or To) Vermunt who married him on May 14, 1924 in Hoeven.

Catharina Vermunt was the second daughter of blacksmith Johannes Vermunt (*Etten 1857) and Magdalena Takx (*Hoeven 1864). Four of this couple's eight children were to emigrate to Canada over time. Two had died young. Two daughters remained unmarried and became teachers in Hoeven. Ten days after their wedding, the bride and groom left on the Empress of Scotland from Southampton to their final destination of Strathmore. Johannes (*Hoeven 1897) and Jacobus Vermunt (*Hoeven 1902), two brothers of the bride and Johannes van Tetering (*Wagenberg 1907), a cousin of the groom, son of aunt Helena Lauwerijssen, traveled with them to Strathmore.

Strathmore.

John and Cato went to live on the farm of John's parents. These were hard times and farm life lost its charm. That is why, after eight years, they decided to opt for city life. In 1932 they sold all their belongings and left for Calgary. Because the economic crisis was at its peak, they received almost nothing for their cattle and machinery. The auction only raised Can\$ 1,900.



Wedding photo of Johannes Lauwerijssen and Catharina Vermunt in 1924.

*(Photo collection
C. Lauwerijssen, Hoeven)*





*Mary Lauweryssen helps her uncle John Lauweryssen in August 1950.
(Photo collection M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)*

In Calgary they first rented the Killarney Corner Store, a bazaar, which they later bought. They lived behind the store. Later they built a house in the neighborhood and rented out the bazaar. In the summer of 1950, Cato and her sister-in-law Adriana Lauwerijssen-van Eekelen went back to Hoeven for a family visit. They stayed for six weeks. Around that time, John and Cato decided to sell their store and return to Strathmore. They first lived in a suite in the local King Edward Hotel, but then bought a home in which they lived for a few years. Cato cared for gardens and John worked as a cashier in the bakery and restaurant of his brother-in-law Jack Vermunt. They also bought a small house and part of the old Catholic church next to their home. They restored the building in order to sell.

At one point they went back to Calgary where John became a night watchman at Precision Drilling Tools and Renfrew Motors. In 1962 he suddenly died of a heart attack. Cato Vermunt sold the house and went back to Strathmore. After John's death, Cato began to focus on painting. She painted purely as a hobby, but was nevertheless able to sell some of her works. Already in 1955 she had received an honorable mention at the Calgary exhibition. Her other hobbies were traveling, fishing, horse riding and shooting. In 1966, Cato decided to return to Hoeven to stay. She made a bet of ten dollars with her cousin Louis Lauwerijssen that she would not return to Canada. The cousin won the bet because around May 1967 Cato decided to



*John Lauweryssen and Cato Vermunt on the occasion of their silver wedding in 1959.
(Photo collection C. Lauwerijssen, Hoeven)*

return to Canada. A newspaper article of May 18, 1967, states why: "Not because the Netherlands has become a disappointment. I really like it here and the people are friendly. But I can hardly get used to what I will call a certain narrow-mindedness here. Moreover, this winter I have suffered more from the cold than in all the harsh winters in Canada combined. The cold is different here compared to Canada and we live there much more generously in terms of heating, lighting and food. She also found driving a lot more difficult in the Netherlands than in Canada. There is not enough space for modernized traffic here. And you have to reckon with cyclists and mopeds everywhere."

After her return in 1967, she married Pete Vandermeer. He was known in Canada as the Prince of Wales Cowboy, because in 1923 he was the Canadian bucking-horse champion of the Calgary Stampede. The special Prince of Wales trophy was awarded to him by Edward Prince of Wales himself. Cato Vermunt died in July 1974 in Calgary. John Lauwerijssen and Cato Vermunt had no children.





During her visit to the Netherlands in 1967, Cato Vermunt also visited her nephew Jan Lauwerijssen, son of Bernardus Lauwerijssen and Cornelia Peemen, on Oude Antwerpsepostbaan 47. (Photo collection C. Lauwerijssen, Hoeven)

Cornelis Lauwerijssen (Corny, 1898-1984) married to
Adriana van Eekelen (1902-1982)

Cornelis Lauwerijssen was just under fourteen when he joined his father in Strathmore in 1912 together with his mother, brother and sister. He went straight to work at John MacKenzie where he had to drag bundles of branches to stoke up the steam engine for the plough. Corny went to school in Akenstad for two weeks, but was sent away because teacher Miss McGinnis was too busy and he did not speak a word of English. In 1913 he worked for the Norway Farm Company doing odd jobs and kept an eye on the cattle in the open fields. He also helped transporting flax to Nightingale. Sometimes Corny worked for the CPR. Together with Jacobus Voermans, he built a 75-kilometer fence along the ditches in the direction of Dalroy. They carried the posts, dug the holes by hand and pulled the wires tight. If he was not needed at home, he set out to collect hay from the public plains. Corny sold it to stable owners for six dollars per ton.

In 1923 Corny rented a piece of land from Jack Damen and in 1924 he bought a threshing machine for 900 dollars. The following year he threshed



*Wedding photo of Cornelis Lauwerijssen and Adriana van Eekelen in 1926.
(Photo collection M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen Strathmore Alberta, Canada)*



*Adriana Lauweryssen-van Eekelen with her daughter Betty in the farm yard in 1938,
with the barns of the farm in the background.
(Photo collection M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)*





Corny Lauweryssen with his four children in the farm yard in the spring of 1938. From left to right: Elizabeth (Betty 1928-1938), Louis, father Corny with daughter Mary on his arm and Cornelius (1927-1940).

(Photo collection M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)

for many farmers 40 days in a row for thirteen cents per sheaf. Within a year he could pay off his threshing machine. He also had a cooking wagon on which Freda Schmidt cooked for the threshing staff.

Like his brother John, Corny also went to Hoeven in search of a suitable wife. Apparently there were not enough marriageable ladies in Strathmore. Or would both brothers prefer to marry a lady from the well known area of Hoeven?

At the end of 1925 Corny left for Hoeven, to return in May 1926, married to Adriana van Eekelen. Some preparations will have preceded this choice of partner. Adriana van Eekelen was born on January 26, 1902 as the daughter of Aloysius van Eekelen (*Hoeven 1868) and Elisabeth van Vlimmeren (*Hoeven 1872). They lived on the Kruisstraat. First in the post office (Oude Antwerpsepostbaan 1, later demolished) and from 1912 on the opposite side of the street in the butter factory De Goudsbloem (Oude Antwerpsepostbaan 2, later demolished). Cato Vermunt, who married Johannes Lauwerijssen in 1924, lived across the street, at Gors 6, from 1911 to 1919. Cato Vermunt and Adriana van Eekelen knew each other and Cato may have tested her interest before Corny Lauweryssen left for Hoeven.



Adriana Lauweryssen-van Eekelen in 1950 visiting her brothers Marijn (left) and Jan (right) on Oude Antwerpsepostbaan 2 in Hoeven.

(Photo collection A. van Eekelen, Hoeven)

Corny and Adriana married in Hoeven on his birthday, April 8, 1926. After a short honeymoon, they went to Canada. The voyage on the Veendam from Rotterdam to Halifax was not entirely satisfactory. Adriana was constantly seasick and some of her precious crockery was broken. Adriana was used to tranquil Hoeven and did not know what to expect on a rural farm in the rugged west of Canada. She did not speak English and without family around she was very homesick. In 1927 Corny hired three servants, Bart Vergouwen, Jost Jochems and Driek Cockx, for whom Adriana also cooked. They had a very good harvest that year. In the spring of 1928 there was still threshing to be done. In 1927, Corny bought their first car, a Chevrolet.

One day Adriana drove that Chevy to her sister-in-law Cato, who lived about 1.5 kilometer away. It all went well until she wanted to turn into the yard. The gate was closed and Adriana did not know how to stop and drove into the yard right through the gate.

Due to the global crisis in the 1930s, it was even in Canada difficult to make ends meet. Prices for agricultural products and livestock fell dramatically. A dozen eggs cost only four cents, a first-class bull calf six cents per kilo and land was traded for Can\$ 7.5 per hectare (Can\$ 3 per acre).

Corny and Adriana had four children. The first son, Cornelis (Corny jr.), born in 1927, was only 12 years old, when he died in 1940 as a result of a burst



Adriana Lauweryssen-van Eekelen and Corny Lauweryssen with their children Louis and Mary around 1955. In the back on the right is Cato Vermunt. (Photo collection M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)



appendicitis. Their first daughter Elisabeth (Betty) was born in 1928 and died in 1938, not even ten years old, of pneumonia. Aloysius (Louis) was born in 1931 and Maria (Mary) in 1937.

In the summer of 1950 Adriana van Eekelen went back to Hoeven for the first time with her sister-in-law Cato Vermunt. They stayed in Hoeven for a few weeks and mainly went on family visits. Their husbands did not go with them. If you asked Corny why he did not want to return to the Netherlands, he invariably said: "They won't believe me anyway". By which he meant that during his visit in 1926 he could hardly or could not convince the farmers in Hoeven that with all the land, machinery and better harvests farming in Canada was much better than in Holland.

When son Louis married in 1956, he took over the farm and Corny and Adriana moved to Strathmore. Corny continued to help on the farm during busy times, but he also had a large garden in the city. With this he won the Best Garden trophy of the Chamber of Commerce in 1972. After his retirement he often went fishing. After celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in 1976,

The grandchildren of Adriana and Corny in 1971. Front from left to right: Don, Lorne and Glen Lauweryssen. At the back from left to right: Doug, Mike and Leonard Hendricks. (Photo collection M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)



Adriana van Eekelen died on September 24, 1982 and Corny Lauwerijssen died almost two years later on July 29, 1984.

Louis Lauwerijssen married Joy Larson. They have three sons, Donald (Don) (*1962), Lorne (*1964) and Glen (*1966). Glen took over the farm from his father, but sold it in 2003 to buy a new farm of about 500 hectares (1,250 acres) 200 kilometers to the north in Big Valley. The climate there is less dry in the summer and therefore does not need to be irrigated as much.

Daughter Mary, trained as a teacher, married William (Bill) Hendricks in 1958. She continued to teach and Bill worked as a carpenter in home construction. In 1968 they started farming on the old farm of her grandfather Casey Lauwerijssen. They are still living there in 2019. They have three sons: Michael (Mike) (*1960), Douglas (Doug) (*1962) and Leonard (*1971). Michael became a carpenter, but in 2013 he took over the farm from his parents. Thus the farm that great-grandfather Cornelis Lauwerijssen and Johanna Engelen started in 1918, still remains in the family after more than 100 years.

Johanna Lauwerijssen (Anne, 1901-1988) married to

Johan Ferdinand Schaufeli (Fred, 1892-1975)

Johanna (Anne) also went to their father in Strathmore in April 1912, with her



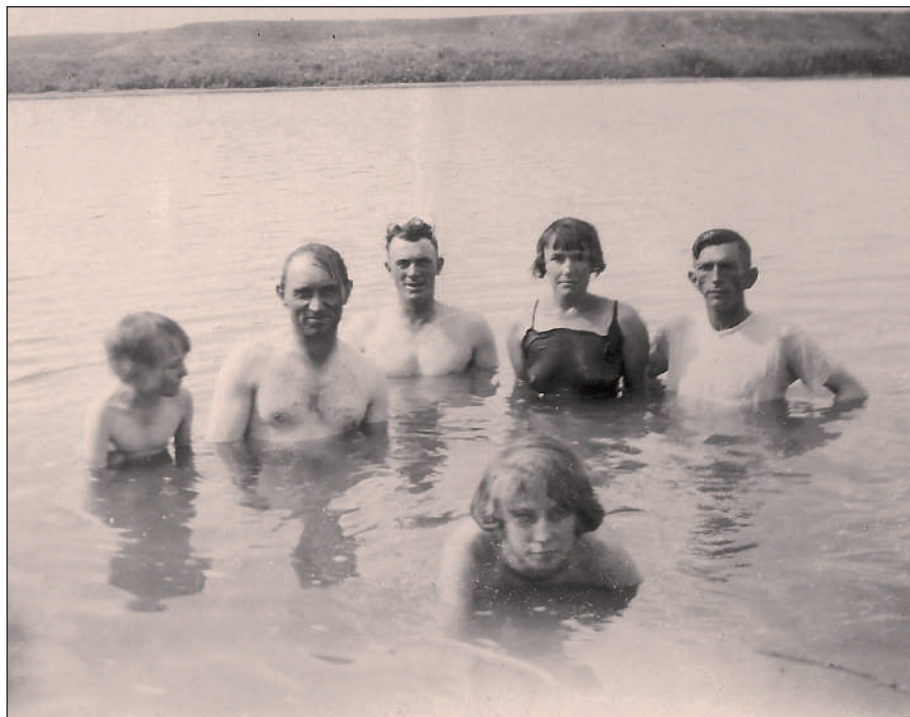
mother and two brothers. She was then ten years old and went to the school in Akenstad, which was specially built for the Dutch immigrants, where all the school years were together in one classroom.

In 1920 Anne Lauwerijssen married Fred Schaufeli (*Uft 1892). He had come to Strathmore in 1911 with his parents Wilhelm Schaufeli and Geertje van Dijk, four brothers and five sisters from Uft in the Gelderse Achter-

Anne Schaufeli-Lauwerijssen and her husband Fred Schaufeli with daughter Anne around 1925.

(Photo collection M. Hendricks-Lauwerijssen, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)





Swimming with the family in one of the irrigation canals around 1935. From left to right: Bill and his father Fred Schaufeli, Corny Lauweryssen, Anne Schaufeli-Lauweryssen and John Lauweryssen. In the foreground Anne Schaufeli.

(Photo collection M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)

hoek region. They went to live on the farm on the southeastern corner of the Township Road 250 and Range Road 245 intersection. Father William Schaufeli sold this farm and land to Anne Lauwerijssen's parents in 1913 before leaving for California with his family in April 1915. Their daughter Jansje (*Hattem 1889) and son-in-law Georges Small already lived there. Fred (then 17 years old) went to work in a cheese factory. In 1917 he returned to Strathmore.

Fred and Anne had a farm just west of Strathmore. Daughter Anne Gertrude was born there in 1921. After four years, the family moved to Penticton, British Columbia. Fred worked in a sawmill for almost a year. At the end of 1925 they moved again, this time to Langley, British Columbia. They had close to a thousand chickens, a few cows, and they grew vegetables. Their son William was born there in 1927. In 1928, the family lived in Lethbridge, about 180 kilometers south of Strathmore, where they started a dairy farm. They stayed there until Anne's father Casey Lauwerijssen died in 1935. Mother Johanna Engelen asked Anne if she and her husband wanted to take



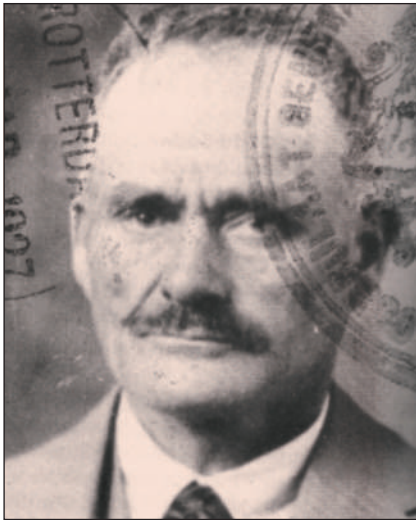
Anne Schaufeli-Lauweryssen, Corny Lauweryssen and Johanna Lauweryssen-Engelen in the home of Cato Lauweryssen-Vermunt shortly after the death of John Lauweryssen in September 1962.

(Photo collection M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada)

over the parental farm. Fred, Anne and their two children returned to Strathmore. They stayed there until September 1939, when they moved to Calgary. Here they bought a confectionery shop and lived behind the store. Anne ran the store and Fred worked as a gardener until his retirement in 1969. They sold the store and moved to another neighborhood in northwest Calgary. They enjoyed their retirement until the death of Fred Schaufeli in 1975. Anne Lauweryssen died in 1988.



Johannes Lauwerijssen (John, 1870-1950)



Passport photo of Johannes Lauwerijssen, with a stamp for his return trip from Rotterdam to Strathmore.

*(Photo collection
M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen,
Strathmore, Alberta, Canada).*

When his emigrated brother Cornelis (Casey) Lauwerijssen visited Hoeven in 1921, the then 50-year-old unmarried Johannes Lauwerijssen (*Hoeven 1870) decided to emigrate with him to Strathmore. Johannes was the sixth child of Johannes Lauwerijssen (*Hoeven 1833) and Joanna Boomaerts (*Etten 1836) and he had lived at Bovenstraat 55 from birth. After his

parents died, he lived there with his youngest brother Josephus Lauwerijssen (*Hoeven 1878), who was married to Johanna van Dijk (*1891) in 1918. When their second child was born in March 1921, Johannes probably thought it was time to leave.

When he arrived in Strathmore, he went to work not only with his brother Casey, but also with the Bartelen family and for the CPR in the maintenance of ditches. In 1930 he rented some land of the CPR (the former farm of Bill Damen). One-third of the crop

went to John. The CPR received one-third and his cousin Corny Lauwerijssen one-third for the use of his machinery.

John visited the Netherlands in the winter of 1926. In the spring of 1927 a few Hoeven emigrants went to Strathmore. These were the family of Driek Jochems and the unmarried Jeff Takx, Jacobus

Johannes Leauweryssen

Requiem high mass will be celebrated in the Sacred Heart Church at Strathmore Thursday at 10 a.m. for Johannes Leauweryssen, 79, of Strathmore, who died Sunday in a Calgary nursing home. Burial will follow in the Strathmore cemetery under the direction of McInnis and Holloway. Prayers will be said in the Sacred Heart Church Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Born in Hoeven, Holland, he moved to the Strathmore district in 1920, and farmed there until retiring two years ago.

Surviving are three brothers in Holland; one niece, Mrs. Fred. Schaufele, in Calgary; and two nephews, Gordy and John Leauweryssen, both of Strathmore.

In the Calgary Daily Herald of February 14, 1950 a short message appeared about the death of Johannes Lauweryssen.



Strathmore, Alberta was a small town in the open plain of the Canadian prairie at the beginning of the twentieth century. (Photo collection P. Lauwerijssen, Hoeven)

van Loon, Toon van Meel and Henk Vermunt. When John Lauwerijssen grew a little older, he bought a small house in Strathmore and became caretaker and handyman for the pastor of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He was much loved by his nephew Louis and niece Mary, and went hockeying and skating with them. He fell ill in the mid-1940s and eventually went to the Father Lacombe Nursing Home in Midnapore, Alberta, where he died on February 12, 1950. He was buried in Strathmore.

Three brothers Vermunt

When Johannes Lauwerijssen (*Nispen 1897) returned to Strathmore after his marriage to Catharina Vermunt in 1924, her two brothers Johannes Cornelis Vermunt (*1897) and Jacobus Petrus Vermunt (*1902) also went with the newly-married couple. In 1927 brother Hendricus Johannes Vermunt (*1907) followed. Their two unmarried sisters, Johanna Catharina (*1891, †1952) and Cornelia Frederika (*1909, †1991), were the only ones of this Vermunt family who stayed behind in Hoeven and both became teachers at Hoeven's Maria School for girls.

These boys may have been made enthusiastic about emigrating by their aunt Petronella Schrijner-Vermunt who had emigrated to Chicago six months earlier and / or their brother-in-law Johannes Lauwerijssen.



Johannes Cornelis Vermunt (John, 1897-1971)

Johannes Vermunt was the fourth child of blacksmith Jan Vermunt (*Etten 1857) and Magdalena Takx (*Hoeven 1864). He was born on December 24, 1897 at Hofstraat 9 in Hoeven. The Vermunt family moved to Gors in Hoeven in September 1911. In 1920 they returned to the center of the village. During this time Jan lived at home with his parents and helped his father in the forge. After arriving in Strathmore in 1924, John Vermunt first lived with his sister Catharina Vermunt and John Lauwerijssen. Later that year he went to work for a blacksmith in nearby Castor. In 1925 he took over a forge in Nightingale. The following year he stopped forging. After working briefly with his brother Jacobus (Jack) Vermunt on the farm in Halkirk near Castor, he went to Strathmore to work at the King Edward Hotel of John Spirros. John was called the Flying Dutchman there. He became a Canadian citizen in July 1930 and was a bartender in Strathmore.

In 1931 he worked in a hotel in Coronation, Alberta.

In 1942 he married teacher Madeleine Fortier. In July of that year the couple moved to Calgary. John Vermunt

went to work at the Calgary Brewery and Madeleine taught at the Garbutt Business College. In 1944 John bought a hotel in Rosebud, Alberta. Son Raymond was born here in June 1945.

In 1948 John Vermunt returned to Strathmore where he bought the King Edward Hotel from his old boss, John Spirros. Daughter Lorraine was born here in February 1949. During the severe hailstorm that struck Strathmore in 1953, the hotel was severely



Sitting the sisters Annie on the left and Loretta Franssen on the right. Behind them are the brothers on the left John and on the right Hank Vermunt at the wedding of Hank and Loretta on November 22, 1932 in Strathmore.

(Photo collection J. Franssen-Anderson, Calgary, Alberta, Canada)

allen zullen  wij verrijzen...

„Het is volbracht, wat Gij mij als
levenstaak had toegewezen”

Heden overleed tot onze diepe droefheid, voorzien van
de H.H. Sacramenten der Stervenden, in de ouderdom
van 60 jaar, onze innig geliefde zuster, behuwd-zuster en
tante,

MEJUFFROUW

Johanna Cath. Vermunt.

Wij bevelen de ziel van de dierbare overledene in Uwe
godvruchtige gebeden aan.

HOEVEN, 9 April 1952.

Strathmore: Cato Lauwerijssen Vermunt
J. Lauwerijssen

Joh. Vermunt
Mad. Vermunt Fortier
en kinderen

Jac. Vermunt
Francy Vermunt Frey
en kinderen

Calgary: Henk Vermunt
Lorette Vermunt Franssen
en kinderen

Hoeven: C. F. Vermunt.

De plechtige uitvaartdienst zal plaats hebben op Dinsdag
15 April a.s. om 10 uur in de parochiekerk van de H. Joh.
de Doper te Hoeven, waarbij U beleefd wordt uitgenodigd.

Rozenkransgebed Woensdag om 6.30 uur, Donderdag en
Vrijdag om 6 uur in de kerk.

 **RIP**

*Johanna Vermunt's mourning card also mentioned all her brothers and sister living
in Canada, 1952. (Collection heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven)*



An artistic quest

In their hotel in Rosebud, John Vermunt and his wife Madeleine, unexpectedly received the well-known Canadian painter Alexander Young Jackson. He was co-founder of the Group of Seven Artists, seven landscape painters who formed an important movement in Canadian art between 1923 and 1930. Alexander stayed for ten days and painted in the area. Later on son Raymond was proud to tell that as a baby he had sat on the lap of that famous painter, who had sung lullabies for him. In his autobiography, Jackson was thrilled to remember the lovely days he spent with a Dutch hotelkeeper and his French-Canadian wife.

damaged. The roof caved in and the water poured from the second floor along the stairs into the hall. Many windows were also broken. Fortunately, nobody was injured.

In 1955, John and Madeleine moved to a new home near Glenwood, Alberta. It turned out that John had green fingers. His yard was a picture to behold. He grew the largest gladiolus and the best geraniums in the city. In 1963 he won the very first Best Home & Gardens trophy. Due to illness, John quit the hotel in 1961. He then worked in the orchards of the Western Irrigation Orchards during the summer months. He was proud of the apricot trees he cared for over there. Madeleine went back to teaching in 1955 and continued until her retirement in 1977.

John Vermunt died of a heart attack in February 1971. Madeleine moved to Calgary and became friends with Arthur (Scotty) Palfrey, who died in 1998. Madeleine Vermunt-Fortier died in 2010.

Raymond Vermunt studied at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, US and received his master's there. He then became head of the St. Jamesschool in Calgary. He married nurse Mary Jane Cullen in 1969. They had two children: Matthew (*1973) and Elizabeth (*1977).

Lorraine Vermunt married Gordon Stangness in 1968 and went to live with him on the farm in Strangmuir, Alberta. They had four sons: Greg (*1968), Brad (*1970), Shawn (*1973) and Tyler (*1975).

Jacobus Vermunt (Jack, 1902-1969)

Jacobus was born on May 31, 1902 as son of blacksmith Johannes Vermunt (*Etten 1857) and Magdalena Takx (*Hoeven 1864) in Hofstraat 9 in Hoeven. As a 15-year-old he left for Princenhage on April 3, 1918. In September 1920 he returned to Hoeven from Nijmegen. In June 1922 he went to Fellenoordstraat in Breda, where he worked as a baker until March 1923. After returning to

Jack Vermunt also sold Victory Bonds (war bonds) in his bakery, as shown in this advertisement in the Strathmore Standard of April 20, 1944.

Hoeven, he left for Antwerp in April of that year. However, he did not leave via Antwerp but with the Batavier Line from Rotterdam via London and Southampton to Canada.

On his birthday on May 31, 1924, he arrived in the port of Quebec. He traveled on to Strathmore with his brother John and sister Cato and her husband Johannes Lauwerijssen. After a while, he went to Halkirk, Alberta, 230 kilometers to the north, where he worked as a plower with horses for various farmers.

In 1926 he married Frances Mary Frey and returned to Strathmore, where he rented a farm from Dan MacDonald. Son Charles Edward (Ed) Vermunt was born in October 1926. Daughter Magdalena Marie (Madeleine) followed two years later. After gaining experience in agriculture and cattle breeding, Jack and Frances rented a farm near Tinchebray, Alberta, where in 1931 son Johannes

Marinus (John) was born. Shortly thereafter, they bought a farm six kilometers north of Alliance, Alberta.

In 1941, Jack and Frances decided to stop their agricultural activities. They sold the farm and moved to Calgary. Jack had had a baker's training in the Netherlands and found a job in a bakery. They did not stay here for long either, because in 1944 they bought Palace Bakery, a bakery and coffee shop, in Strathmore. Jack closed the bakery in 1949 and expanded the cof-





Right next to the Union Bank is the Palace Bakery with white facade in Strathmore that Jack Vermunt bought in 1944. (Photo collection P. Lauwerijssen, Hoeven)

fee shop into Strathmore's largest restaurant. For him worked Johanna Takx (*1907) from Hoeven, who had emigrated to Canada in 1948.

Between 1959 and 1963, Jack and Frances ran a hotel in Carseland, 25 kilometers south of Strathmore. After that they lived in Strathmore again. Jack worked until May 1969 at the Strathmore Hotel of Jim Whitely. Jack Vermunt died in October 1969 and Frances Frey in 1987.



Hendricus Vermunt (Hank, 1907-1983)

Hendricus Vermunt, the youngest son of Johannes Vermunt (*Etten 1857) and Magdalena Takx (*Hoeven 1864) was born on June 10, 1907 in Hofstraat 9 in Hoeven. At the age of twelve he went to Utrecht in August 1919. In April 1926 he returned from Arnhem. What he did in those seven years is unknown. In March 1927 painter and farmhand Hendricus Vermunt together with his cousin Josephus Takx, Antonius van Meel, Jacobus van Loon and the family



Hank Vermunt and Loretta Franssen in front of their car around 1950.

*(Photo collection
J. Franssen-Anderson,
Calgary, Alberta, Canada)*

of Henricus Jochems left for Strathmore, accompanied by Johannes Lauwerijssen (*1870 Hoeven). Hank Vermunt married Loretta Franssen (*West De Pere, Wisconsin, US 1913) in Strathmore on November 22, 1932. Her father Martin Franssen originally came from Venray and in October 1901 he had emigrated to Wisconsin via Antwerp with his two older brothers Gerard and Peter. In 1919, Martin Franssen and his family moved from the US to Strathmore.

Hank and Loretta went to live in Calgary and had two children. The oldest was son Leroy, who was born in Calgary on December 5, 1933. The second child was daughter Shirley Magdalena, who was also born in Calgary on December 12, 1936.

When it was also becoming difficult to find work in Canada



Loretta Franssen and Hank Vermunt around 1960.

*(Photo collection
J. Franssen-Anderson,
Calgary, Alberta, Canada)*



in the early 1930s, Hank made a living by soaking and drying skins. He later resumed his actual occupation as a painter and wallpaperer. With that he created a furore in Calgary. He was hired by the well-to-do to design and furnish the interior of their homes. Hank and Loretta also won many prizes for Calgary's best decorated house over Christmas time.

Loretta Franssen died in July 1974 when she was 61 years old. Son Leroy, married to Dagny Kramer, died in 1978, 44 years old, in Vancouver, of a heart muscle disease.

Hank Vermunt died of a brain tumor in Calgary on January 28, 1983, the day before the wedding of his granddaughter Brenda Benard, who had been warding him all night.

Four more bachelors

Gerardus van Campenhout (Jerry or Gerald, 1895-1980)



The Van Campenhout family around 1920. Back row from left to right: Jef de Bie, Gabriël (blacksmith in Hoeven), Maria (Marie), Barbara (Bab), Petronella (Pieta), Gerardus (Gerald) and Marinus (Rien, blacksmith in Zegge) van Campenhout. Front row from left to right: Johanna (Sjo, married to Jef de Bie), father Gerardus and Dymphena (Dina) van Campenhout, mother Anna (Keeke) van Campenhout-Tak and Johanna (Sjo) Jongenelen (married to Marinus van Campenhout).

(Photo collection heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven)



The whereabouts of Gerald van Campenhout in Canada.

Gerardus van Campenhout was the youngest son of farrier and innkeeper Gerardus van Campenhout (*Hoeven 1858) and Petronella Augustijn (*Hoeven 1866). He was born on May 19, 1895 in the home St. Janstraat 3 in Hoeven. Gerardus and Petronella had eight children: Johanna (*1888), Cornelia (*1889), Adriana (*1890), Gabriël (*1892 who already died in 1897), Marinus (*1893), Gerardus (*1894 who died that same year), Gerardus (*1895) and Antonia (*1896, who also died in the year of her birth). After Petronella Augustijn had died in 1896, Gerardus van Campenhout married Anna Tak (*Rucphen 1863) in 1897. From this marriage were born: Gabriel (*1898), Maria (*1900), Barbara (*1901), Petronella (*1902) and Dimphena (*1905, who died that same year).

Gerardus left the crowded family in 1918 and went to Heerlen, presumably to work in the coal mines. He returned home in 1919. In 1926 he emigrated to Canada. He left Rotterdam on April 20, 1926 with Cornelis Lauwerijssen, who had been living in Strathmore since 1912, and Adriana van Eekelen, who had married Cornelis in Hoeven that year. Undoubtedly, Gerardus will initially have worked as a servant for the Hoeven families.

In 1940, lumberjack Jerry van Campenhout lived in Fernie, British Columbia.



He moved to nearby Marysville in 1949. Gerald died on April 3, 1980 at Dellview Hospital in Vernon, British Columbia. He was a blacksmith at the time and still unmarried. Six days after his death he was buried not in Vernon but in the Westlawn Cemetery in Cranbrook, British Columbia.

Josephus Takx (Jef, 1910-1988)

Josephus Ludovicus Takx was born on April 18, 1910, the son of tailor Hendricus Johannes Takx (*Hoeven 1860) and Lucia Voermans (*Etten 1867) at St. Janstraat 36. Lucia Voermans was a sister of Jacobus and Josephus Voermans, who had emigrated with their families to Strathmore in Canada in 1908. Josephus had an older brother Willebrordus (*1906) and two older sisters Petronella (*1903) and Johanna (*1907) who were all born in Hoeven. His father Hendricus Takx died in 1912 when Josephus was only two years old. After his mother Lucia Voermans had died on Christmas Day in 1925, 16-year-old Josephus, together with his cousin and boy next door Hendricus Vermunt (his later brother-in-law), Jacobus van Loon, Antonius van Meel and the family of Henricus Jochems decided to leave for Canada accompanied by Johannes Lauwerijssen (*1870 Hoeven). They left with the Nieuw

Amsterdam on March 29, 1927 from Rotterdam to Halifax.

Apparently, Jef Takx did not like Strathmore as much as the rest of this company, because Josephus returned in 1930. He went to live in Oudenbosch with his sister Petronella who was married to Wilhelmus van den Akker (*Oudenbosch 1896). He was a bicycle repairman and laborer by profession. In August 1931 he moved in with his unmarried uncle and aunt Adrianus (*Etten 1869) and Adriana Voermans (*Hoeven 1863) who lived on Sprangweg 32 in Etten. From there he went to Eindhoven in June 1934. Six



Wedding photo of Josephus Takx and Johanna van Loon in 1943.

*(Photo collection
F. Takx, Etten-Leur)*



Josephus Takx meets his sister Johanna Wood-Takx in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada in 1979.

*(Photo collection
F. Takx, Etten-Leur)*

months later he lived with his brother Willebrordus and his family in Oudenbosch, moving back to Sprangweg 32 below Etten in October 1936.

On August 3, 1943 he married Johanna van Loon (*Etten 1909), a daughter of Franciscus van Loon (*Hoeven 1863) and Petronella Lauwerijssen (*Hoeven 1871). Cato Geerts, owner of Café Het Hooghuis on St. Janstraat 26 in Hoeven,

died and a month later, in August 1943, Josephus Takx and his wife came to live here. In 1945 the bar was in his name. They had two sons Henk (*1944) and Frans (*1946) there.

The couple lived there until 1962, when they moved to Hertenlaan 4 in Hoeven. In 1963 the building, which dated from 1685, was purchased by the municipality of Hoeven, which had it demolished that same year.

Jef Takx returned to Canada again in June 1979. He and his wife went to visit his brother-in-law Jac van Loon in Abbotsford, British Columbia, who celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary that year. Also at the party was Jef's sister Johanna Wood-Takx, who had emigrated to Canada in 1948. It was a small family reunion because Madeleine Vermunt-Fortier, the widow of John Vermunt, had come with Johanna. Johanna Wood-Takx died on June 17, 1982 in Calgary and was buried in Strathmore.

Jef Takx died in Hoeven in 1988. Johanna van Loon had already died in 1984.

Jacobus van Loon (Jac, 1905-1994)

Franciscus van Loon (*Hoeven 1863) and Petronella Lauwerijssen (*Hoeven 1871) were married in 1897 and then took over the mill De Toekomst at Sprangweg 44 from his father. They went to live in the miller's house next to the mill on Sprangweg 42 in Etten-Leur that belonged to the St. John the Baptist parish in Hoeven. They had nine children there. The first five all died



Petronella van Loon-Lauwerijssen (1871-1956).

(Photo collection F. Takx, Etten-Leur)

under the age of six. The next four, Jacobus (*1905), Cornelia (*1907), Johanna (*1909) and Johannes (*1910), fortunately fared better.

From July 1912 to April 1914 Jacobus van Loon lived with his uncle and aunt Johannes Verschuren and Maria Lauwerijssen, who had no children of their own, in the hamlet of Attelaken in Etten-Leur. Then he came home again. In 1924, he volunteered for the Vrijwillige Landstorm before being drafted into



Family photo on the occasion of the 50th wedding anniversary of Franciscus van Loon and Petronella Lauwerijssen in 1947. Back row from left to right: Net Takx-van Loon, Jef Takx with son Frans, Bertha van Loon-van Erk, Jan van Loon, Franciscus van Loon, Petronella van Loon-Lauwerijssen, Ben Verschuren, Cor Verschuren-van Loon and Jos Verschuren. Front row from left to right: Frans van Loon (Janszn), Johan van Loon (Janszn), Henk Takx, Ella Verschuren, Nelly van Loon (Jansdr), Kees van Loon (Janszn), Frans Verschuren, Hans Verschuren and Annie Verschuren.

(Photo collection N. Monden-van Loon, Etten-Leur)

the 6th Infantry Regiment in Breda in early 1925. On September 30, 1925 he was already dismissed.

In 1927, James left with (his later brother-in-law) Josephus Takx, Antonius van Meel, Hendricus Vermunt and the family of Henricus Jochems, accompanied by Johannes Lauwerijssen for Strathmore. Jacobus went to work on the farm of Jack Vermunt from

Hoeven, who had emigrated in 1924. He did not stay in Strathmore, but left for Abbotsford, British Columbia. There he met Ivy Lee (*1917) with whom he married on March 9, 1939. They had no children. Jac then went to work in forestry on Vancouver Island. That led him to set up a parquet flooring factory in northern Vancouver, which grew into a thriving business. That is why he was able to retire at the age of 54. Jac van Loon died in Abbotsford on July 21, 1994. His wife Ivy Lee died in 2000.



Antonius van Meel (Tony, 1903-1988)

Antonius van Meel, the eldest son of farmhand Gerardus van Meel (*Hoeven 1877) and Maria Thijs (*Hoeven 1877), was born on September 3, 1903 at Hermansstraat 13 in Hoeven. His father had just built a new house on a piece of land of over 4,800 square meters with mainly pine forest. Gerard and Maria were married in Hoeven in May 1902, and had temporarily lived at Moleneindsestraat 14. In 1911 Gerardus van Meel sold that house and moved to Hermansstraat 11. He had that house demolished in 1912 and built a new house. The Van Meel-Thijs couple had seven children. Two of them were stillborn and son Johannes (*Hoeven 1905) died when he was less than three years old. When mother Maria Thijs died in 1916 at the age of 39, Gerardus van Meel was left behind with his children Antonius (*1903), Elisabeth (*1910), Antonia (*1914) and Adriana (*1916), who was only two months old. Gerardus found a second wife in Cornelia Buijens (*Hoeven 1888), with whom he married on January 10, 1917 in Hoeven. In Hoeven they had three sons Marinus (*1918), Cornelis (*1920) and Johannes (*1926), who died on February 1, 1927. In 1921 the family moved to Heul 41. They stayed there for only a year and then moved to Moleneindsestraat 29 in Hoeven. In 1920, Antonius (Toon) van Meel went to work as a manservant for Cornelis Coevoets at Lagestraat 6. In October 1924 he moved in with his uncle Jacobus Thijs off what is now Sprangweg 5. His uncle may already have



been sick at the time because he died in December 1924. His widow gave birth to a son four days later. Toon continued to live there to run his uncle's farm.

In 1927, Toon emigrated to Canada. He was accompanied by the also unmarried Josephus Takx, Jacobus van Loon, Hendricus Vermunt and the family of Henricus

Jochems to Strathmore accompanied by Johannes Lauwerijssen. There he initially worked for the previously emigrated Hoeveners.

In 1963 Tony van Meel lived in Carstairs, Alberta. Around 1954 he was married to Dorothy Catherine Hughes (*Calgary 1914). Dorothy had previously been married to Oswald Sem and then to Harry Rupp. From Oswald Sem she had son Kenneth R. Sem (*1937) and from Harry Rupp daughter Lynda C. Rupp (*1944). Son Richard Antonius van Meel was born in 1955. The couple also had a daughter Lynda Mae van Meel. Her year of birth was not found. Richard van Meel died at the age of 17 when he hit a car with his motorcycle. The family was living in Didsbury, Alberta at that time.

Tony van Meel died in 1988 in Didsbury. His wife Dorothy Hughes turned 92 and died on June 12, 2006 in a retirement home in Red Deer, Alberta. Both are buried in Didsbury.



A blended family

Henricus Jochems (Harry, 1890-1973) and his wife

Catharina Waegemaekers (1884-1962) with their (step)children

Cornelis van Ginneken (1907-1947)

Antonius van Ginneken (Tony, 1908-1949)

Jacobus van Ginneken (1910-1972)

Johanna van Ginneken (Josie, 1911-1951)

Maria Jochems (1918-2011)

Johannes Jochems (1919-1937)

Adriana Jochems (Joan, 1920-1992)

Anna Jochems (1922-1999)

Gerardus Jochems (George, 1923-1997)

Catharina Maria Waegemaekers was born on April 19, 1884 in Chaam. Her parents were Adrianus Waegemaekers and Adriana Hendriks. On July 30, 1906 she married in Chaam with Johannes Marinus van Ginneken, who was born on November 4, 1875 in Rucphen. After their wedding, they moved to

St. Janstraat 21 in Hoeven. They took over the inn De Zwaan from Adrianus van Aken. They had five children there: Cornelis (*1907), Antonius (*1908), Adriana (*1909, she became only seven years old), Jacobus (*1910), and Johanna (*1911). A month before the birth of the youngest daughter, father Johannes van Ginneken died on September 19, 1911.

Catharina Waegemaekers married Henricus Jochems (*Rijsbergen 1890) in 1916. They had five children in Hoeven: Maria (*1918), Johannes (*1919), Adriana (*1920), Anna (*1922) and Gerardus (*1923).

In March 1927, Henricus and Catharina emigrated with their blended family to Strathmore in Canada. They left with Johannes Lauwerijssen (*Hoeven 1870) with the Nieuw Amsterdam on March 29, 1927 from Rotterdam. The unmarried Josephus Takx, Jacobus van Loon and Antonius van Meel also went to Strathmore on that ship. The journey to Halifax lasted 11 days, after which they had to travel by train for five more days.

Arriving in Strathmore, Harry Jochems rented a farm for the first two years. After this, the family moved to Carstairs, 100 kilometers to the north. Harry Jochems bought a farm of the Christensen family about 15 kilometers east of Carstairs. Harry and his own five under-aged children all naturalized to Canadian citizens in June 1935. His wife Catharina Waegemaekers became a Canadian citizen in January 1936.

For twenty years Harry had, next to his own farm, a threshing machine to help the neighbors bring in the harvest, and on winter days he carried coal. Harry and Catharina retired in 1946 and moved to Carstairs.

Son George and son-in-law Adam Schmick, married to daughter Anna Jochems, took over the farm. After his retirement, Harry drove the local school bus for a few more years. The children called him Pappy Jochems. Harry Jochems died in 1973 in Carstairs. Catharina Waegemaekers had already died there in 1962.



The oldest of the nine children, **Cornelis** van Ginneken, only turned 40 and was unmarried. He became a Canadian citizen in 1935. Cornelis moved from Carstairs to Calgary in 1937, where he died on December 19, 1947. He was buried in Carstairs.

Tony van Ginneken married Maria Josephina van Rijzewijk in 1936. The wedding took place in Calgary. She was a daughter of Henricus van Rijzewijk (*Tilburg 1882) and Elisabeth Nobelen (*Gilze-Rijen 1883) and was born on April 19, 1907 in Tilburg. This family had eight children. Father Henricus had been to Canada for the first time in 1913, but had already returned to Tilburg the following year. In 1928 the couple left for Calgary with their children Helena (*1905), Maria, Josephus (*1909), Henricus (*1911) and Johanna (*1912).

Tony van Ginneken and Maria van Rijzewijk had a daughter

Betty. Tony naturalized as a Canadian citizen in 1935. In 1944 they moved to South Slokan, British Columbia. Tony van Ginneken died in 1948, aged 39. His wife Maria van Rijzewijk was 86 years old when she died in 1993.

Jacobus van Ginneken, who became a Canadian citizen in 1935, remained unmarried and died on October 4, 1972.

Josie van Ginneken married Johannes (John) van Tetering in February 1932. He was born in Wagenberg on October 5, 1907. He was a son of Cornelis van Tetering (*Terheijden 1856) and Helena Lauwerijssen (*Hoeven 1864).





Johannes van Tetering (1907-1956).

*(Photo collection heemkundekring
De Honderd Hoeven)*

After John van Tetering's father had died in 1916 and his mother in 1924, he was left behind with his stepfather Adrianus Aartsen. In 1927 he decided, only sixteen years old, to emigrate to Canada with his uncle John Lauwerijssen (*Hoeven 1870) along with, among others, the Jochems-Waegemaekers family. During the trip to Strathmore he had already met Josie van Ginneken, who was four years younger.

John worked on different farms in Strathmore. In November 1928 he visited the Netherlands. On March 1, 1929 he left again from Antwerp for Strathmore. In 1930 he moved to Carstairs with the family of Harry Jochems. Cornelius, the first son of John van Tetering and Josie van Ginneken was born there in 1933, followed by son Harry (Hank) in 1936. In the same year John became a Canadian. John and Josie were then living in Olds, Alberta, about 25 kilometers north of Carstairs. When Josie was naturalized in 1937, they were living in Carstairs again. The family roamed the area and loved fishing, hunting, and ice hockey. Finally they settled east of Carstairs on a rented farm. Josie van Ginneken died in 1951, aged 39. John van Tetering had a hard time coping and died five years later in 1956. He was 49 years old.

Maria Jochems married Henry McDonnell (*Castle Blayney, Ireland) in Calgary in 1937. Their children Patrick (*1938), Henry (*1940) and Anna (*1942) were born in Calgary. Then they moved to Vancouver where daughter Linda was born in 1947. In 1952 they went from Canada to the US. Son Thomas was born there in 1955 in Portland, Oregon. Maria Jochems was naturalized to American citizenship in 1959. She died in 2011 in Portland. Her husband Henry McDonnell had already died in 1997.

Johannes Jochems died, after a sickness of eighteen months, on February 11, 1937. He was no older than 17 years.



Daughter **Joan** Jochems married Alexander Henri (Pat) Spooner and went to live in Edmonton, Alberta. They had three children: Doreen, Catherine and Margaret. Pat Spooner died in 1980 and Joan Jochems in 1992.



Anna Jochems married Adam Schmick (*Prelate, Saskatchewan, Canada) on July 20, 1944. After having lived and worked on the Schmick family farm for a year, they and brother George Jochems continued the farm of father Harry Jochems for twelve years. Anna and Adam had three children: Geraldine (*1945), Dennis (*1948) and Gloria (*1949). In 1958 they moved to Carstairs where Adam worked for the County Mountain View for four years operating the heavy machinery for road construction. He then went to work for Shell. The fuel was supplied by train and he delivered it to the various farmers. Anna Jochems died in July 1999 and Adam Schmick in October 2000.

On June 25, 1945 the youngest son **George** Jochems married Lydia (Lil) Schmick, a sister of Adam Schmick who was married to George's sister Anna. George had always worked on his father's farm after primary school. In 1946, he and his brother-in-law Adam Schmick rented his father's farm. After Adam Schmick left for Carstairs in 1958, George bought his father's farm and continued the business until 1983. Then he and his wife stopped farming and settled in Carstairs. After their retirement George became chairman of the local history circle. Lil focused on painting and became a locally known painter. They had three children: Bob, Greg and Janice. George Jochems had managed to buy the right house in Carstairs to grow old, the family would say laughing, namely right across the street from the Senior Lodge and only one block away from the cemetery. George Jochems died in 1997 and his wife Lil Schmick in 2007.

An unusual emigrant

Johannes Adrianus Vermunt (1888-1936)

Johannes (Jan) Vermunt was the youngest son of Wilhelmus Vermunt (*Etten 1817) and Geertruida Renne (*Etten 1852). He was born on July 29, 1888 on Sprangweg 1, which belonged to the St. Jan de Doper parish in Hoeven but

Two marriages of convenience

Gerardus van de Wiel was a wealthy man and had one child Anna Maria van de Wiel (*Standdaarbuiten 1858) with his first wife Anna Cornelia Akkermans. They lived at Weeldijk 4 in Noordhoek under the municipality of Standdaarbuiten. Maria van Steen came from Oud Gastel on July 9, 1891 to live with this family as one of the many maids. After the lady of the house had died in 1897, the widower married his maid in 1900. Financially a wise decision by Maria van Steen. Son Gerardus (*Standdaarbuiten 1903) and daughter Cornelia (*Standdaarbuiten 1908) were born from this marriage. Father Gerardus was almost 83 years old at the birth of Cornelia and was unable to report the birth himself due to illness. In 1912 Gerardus van de Wiel died and his son Gerardus went to the Saint Louis boarding school in Oudenbosch. Maria van Steen stayed behind with 4-year-old daughter Cornelia and 53-year-old step-daughter Anna Maria. In 1913 Maria married Johannes Vermunt, who was twenty years younger. Was it true love or did she just want a much younger husband after being married



Neurotics Sanatorium "Overdonk" in Dongen in 1906.

(www.oudefotosvandongen.nl)



to an old man for twelve years. Financially it was certainly a good match for Johannes Vermunt, but it was definitely not a happy marriage.

In 1992 Harry Broos described these marriages of convenience more explicitly as follows:

"Robert van de Wiel was a wealthy farmer, but at a later age, after the death of his wife, he made the mistake of marrying his maid, Maria van Steen. This maid differed more than 50 years in age. After Robert van de Wiel's death, Maria van Steen was given the farm and half the capital, which she had to share with the daughter from Robert van de Wiel's first marriage. Maria van Steen was by then 38 years old. She had told her staff: "If I ever get married again, I'll take one of three times seven."

This wish to marry a 21-year-old guy came true. The rest went quickly downhill as this young man, Jan Vermunt coming from Hoeven, became the new farmer and within fifteen years he managed to squander the entire inherited estate through large parties and binge drinking.

In 1929, both were evicted from the farm. The farm and grounds were sold to Mr. Wabeke from Zeeland. He only farmed there for one year."

was part of the municipality of Etten-Leur. Father Willem was 70 years old and mother Geertruida 35 years. Johannes married Maria van Steen on May 28, 1913 in Standdaarbuiten (*Gastel 1869). She was then the widow of Gerardus Robertus van de Wiel (*Standdaarbuiten 1825), who had died on January 23, 1912 at the age of 86. After their wedding they lived on the farm of her first husband Gerardus van de Wiel with his two other children, Anna Maria van de Wiel (*Standdaarbuiten 1858) and Cornelia van de Wiel (*Standdaarbuiten 1908). Johannes Vermunt and Maria van Steen had no children.

In 1923 Johannes went to Canada alone. Maria van Steen stayed in Standdaarbuiten with her stepdaughter and daughter. He left on the Andania from Southampton on June 8, 1923 to his friend Abraham Segboer in Monarch, Alberta, about 160 km south of Strathmore. On December 2, 1923, Johannes returned from Montreal to Liverpool en route to Standdaarbuiten. From there he went to the sanatorium for neurotics Overdonk in Dongen on March 20, 1926. It is unknown whether he was admitted as a patient or being employed there. Still married, he died in Dongen on April 10, 1936. Since June 1925, Jan and Maria lived separated from table and bed, because at that time Maria had moved to Oudenbosch with her daughter Cornelia and her stepdaughter Anna van de Wiel. After Anna van de Wiel had died in 1926, Maria van Steen and her daughter left for Ginneken in 1927. In December 1931 they moved to the Baronielaan in Breda. Maria van Steen died on April 15, 1943 in Breda.

EPILOG

In 1867 the first two Hoeven emigrants Henderina and Catharina Brans went to the US. It then took more than 40 years for the next Hoeveners to find their way to the US or Canada. Only from 1908 onwards did Hoeveners go to both Canada and the US again and the flow of emigrants really got going. 106 Hoeveners left between 1908 and 1927. Nineteen of them were single persons, twelve families with a total of 58 children, five newlywed women, of whom only one partner had lived in Hoeven, and Johannes Adrianus Vermunt, who had lived in Canada without his wife for a while.

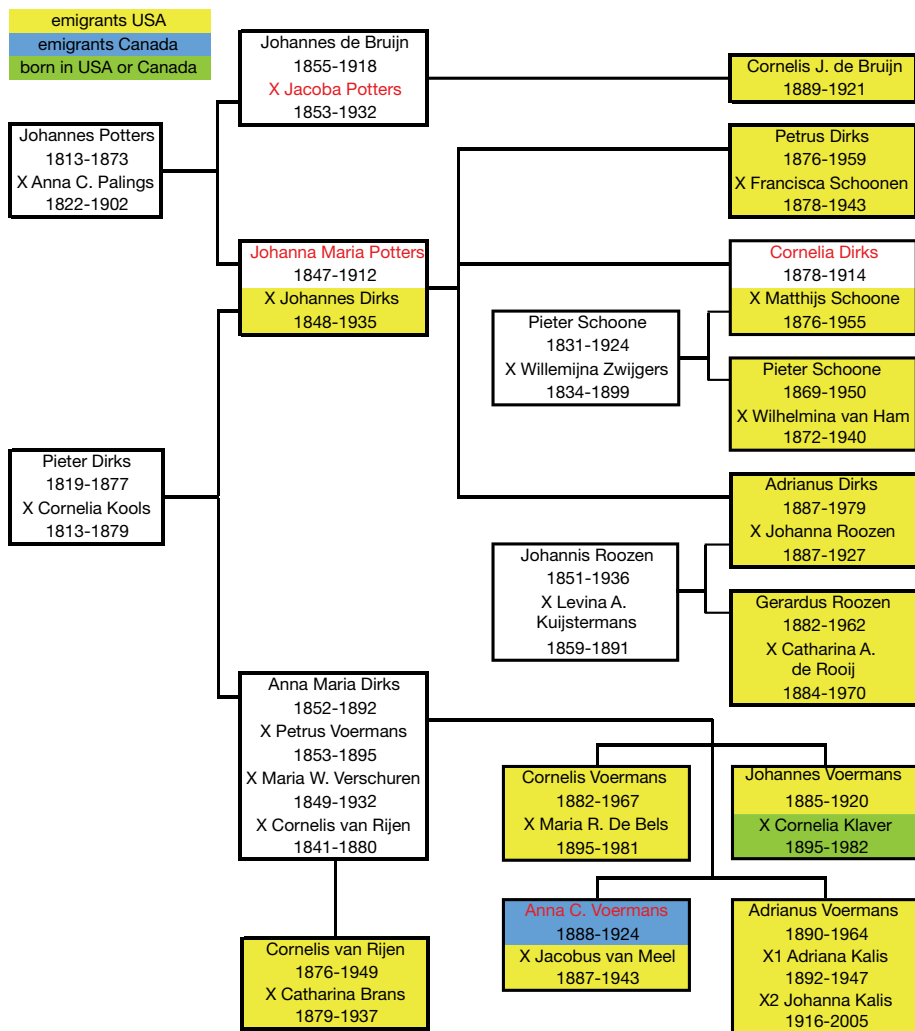
Only nine Hoeveners, five of whom still unmarried, two children, one widow and one married person who had also left alone, returned to the Netherlands after a longer or shorter stay. The others continued to live in the US or Canada and died there. Of the total of 108 Hoeven emigrants, 50 chose the US and 58 Canada as their first destination. However, not all of them remained in the same place but wandered throughout the US and Canada. Some moved from the US to Canada or vice versa. A few, if they could afford it, visited Hoeven one or more times.

The Hoeveners, most of whom were of agricultural origin, settled in the US mainly in Harrison, Lincoln, Wisconsin and in Canada in Strathmore, Alberta. Nearly all the emigrants to Harrison came from the Kapelstraat in Oudenbosch and the Gors in Hoeven and also had a mutual family connection. They followed each other in a chain migration. Hoeveners were initially lured to Canada by the large propaganda campaign of, among others, Cornelis van Aken, employed by the Canadian CPR. But here too, mutual influence and family connections played a major role in choosing this region.

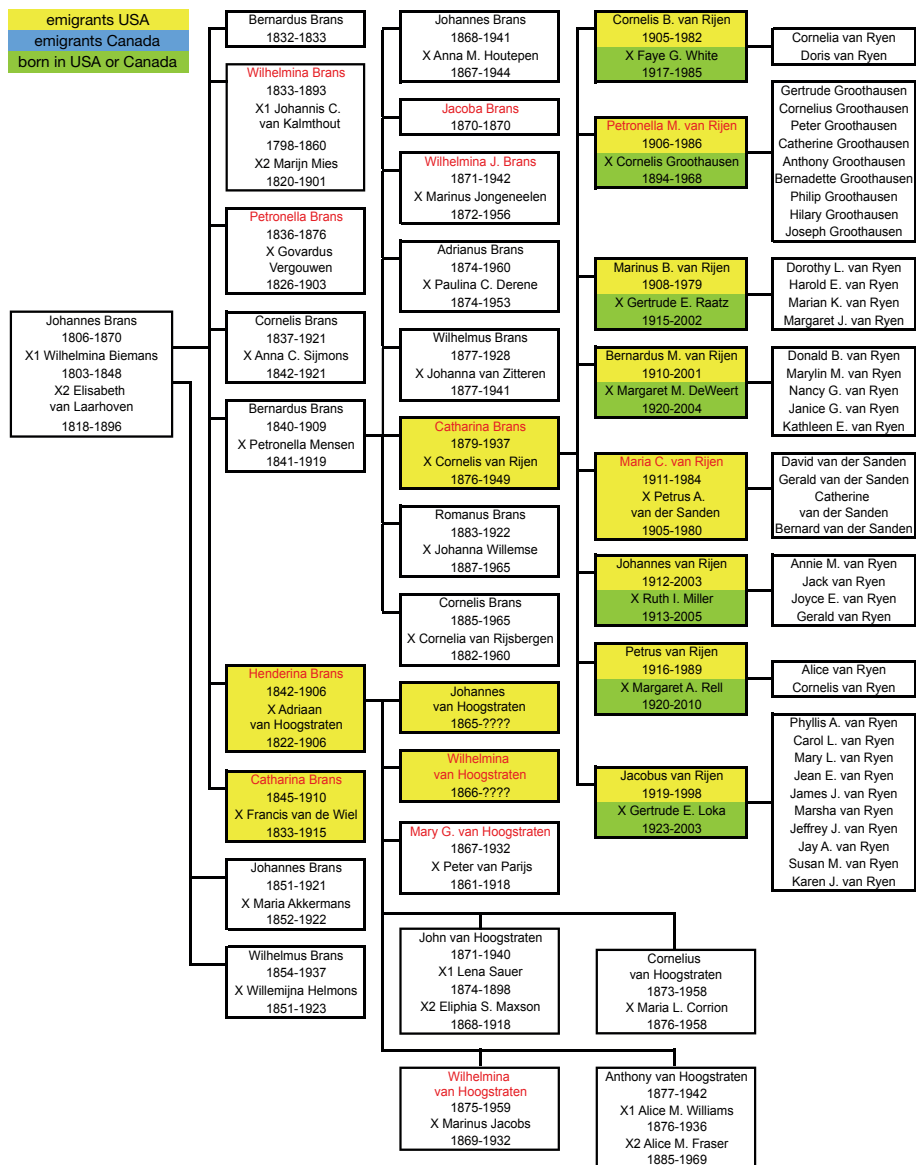
Why the people emigrated has never been written down by any of them. The poorly functioning economy would have had a major impact in that period. People were looking for a better life. Now we would call them economic refugees, with the difference that the recipient countries were open to immigrants and Canada even stimulated immigration. A few, mostly unmarried people, were looking for adventure. Not everyone emigrated spontaneously of their own accord. Many had to be convinced by those that had previously emigrated that life was better in Canada or the US. Apparently not all people from Hoeven were as easily convinced. This was the reason for Cornelis Lauwerijssen not to visit Hoeven anymore after his marriage. "They won't believe me anyway" was his regular answer when asked why he had never gone back.

ATTACHMENTS

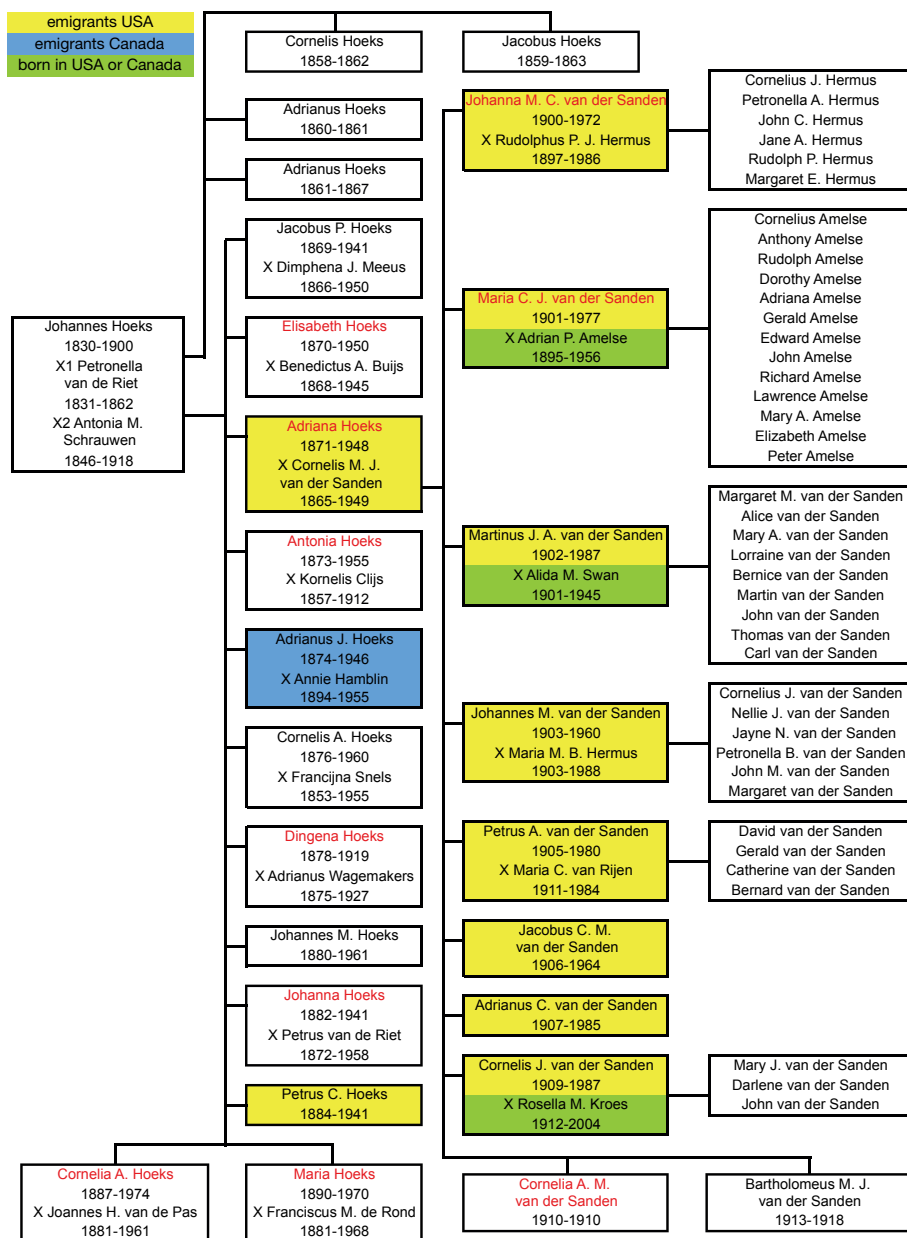
Appendix 1: Family connections chain emigrants



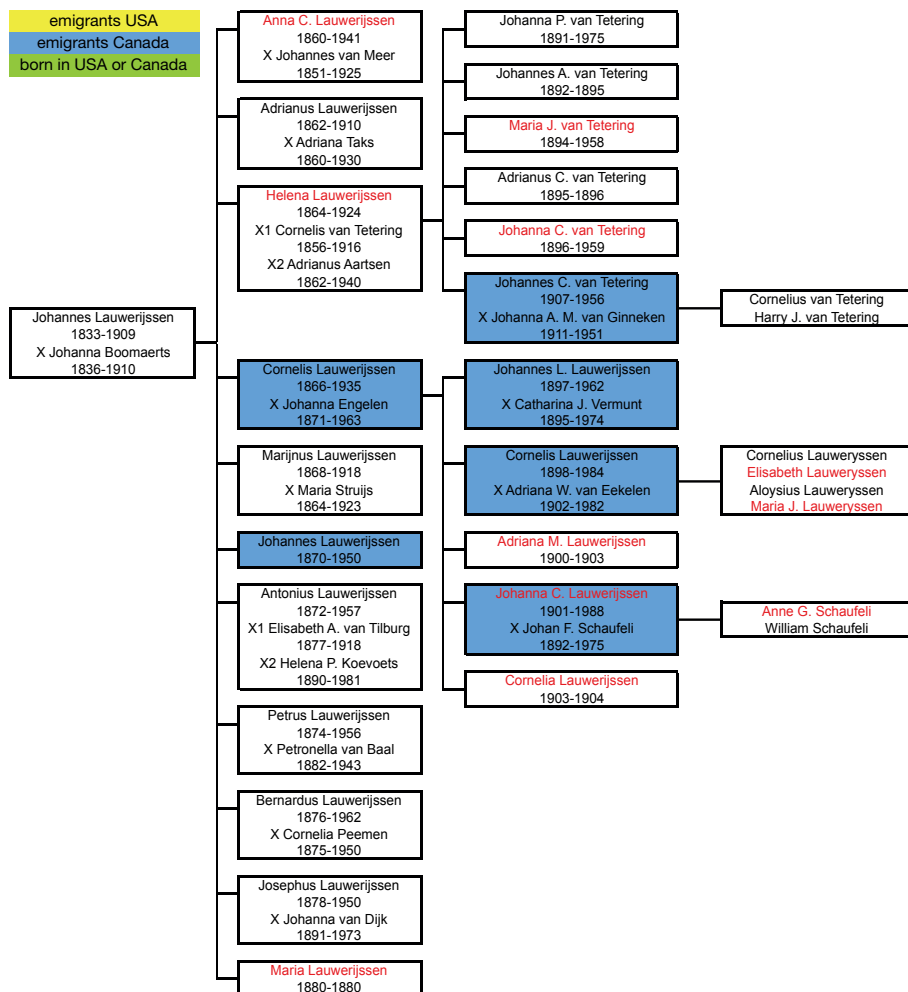
Appendix 2: Family connections Brans and Van Rijen



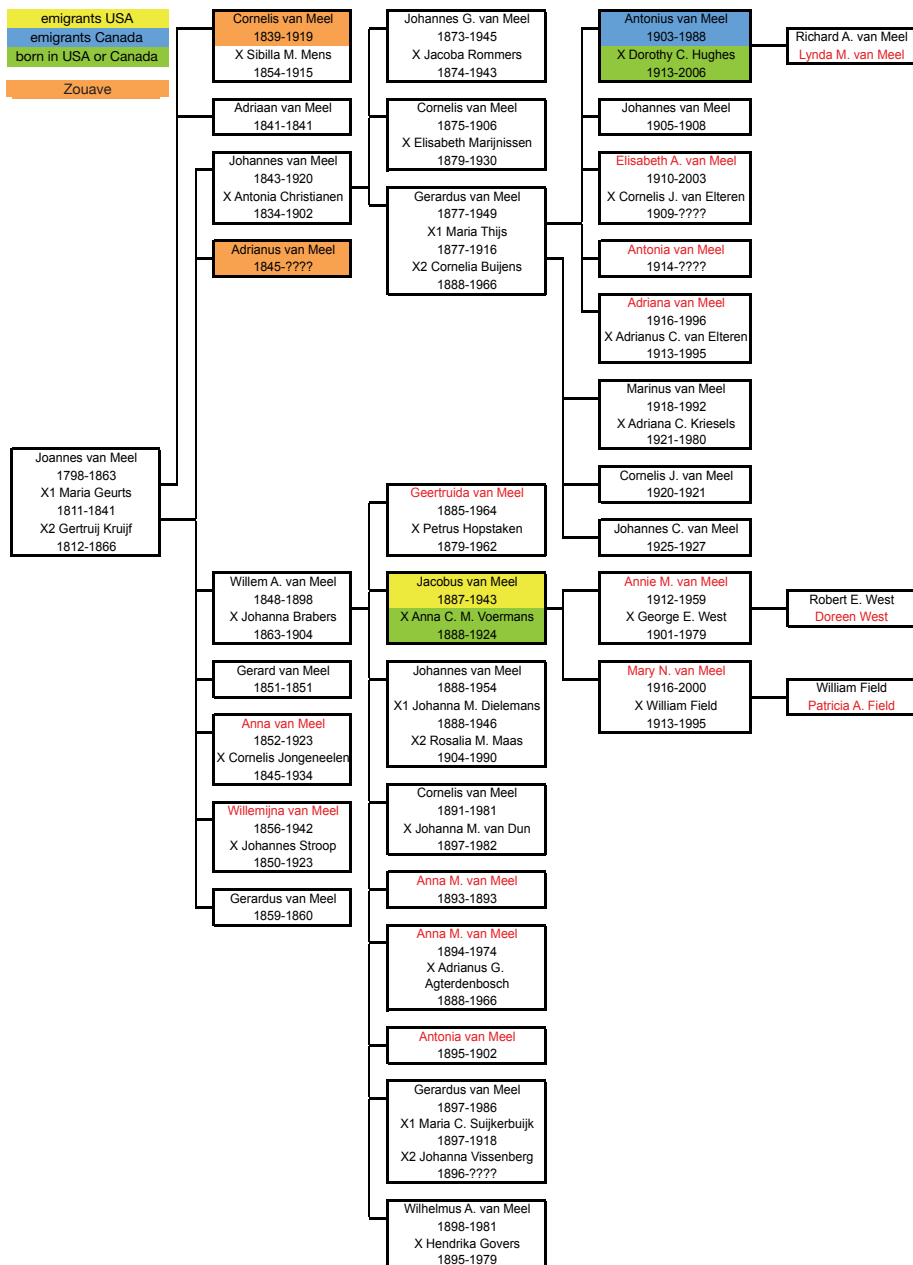
Appendix 3: Family connections Hoeks and Van der Sanden



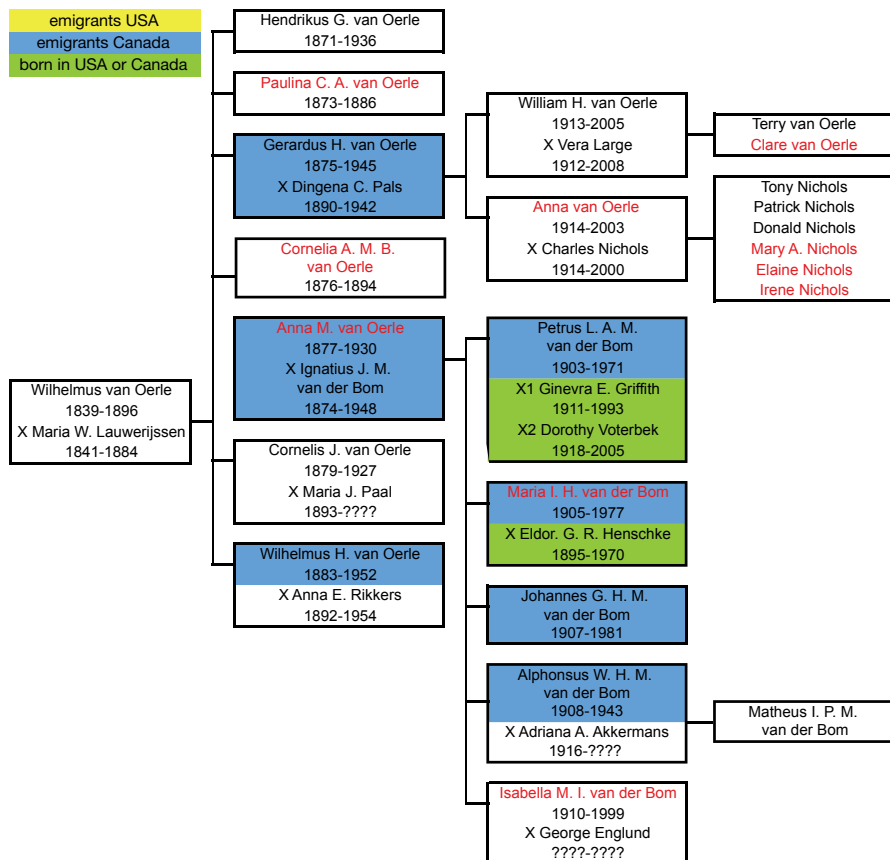
Appendix 4: Family connections Lauwerijssen and Van Tetering



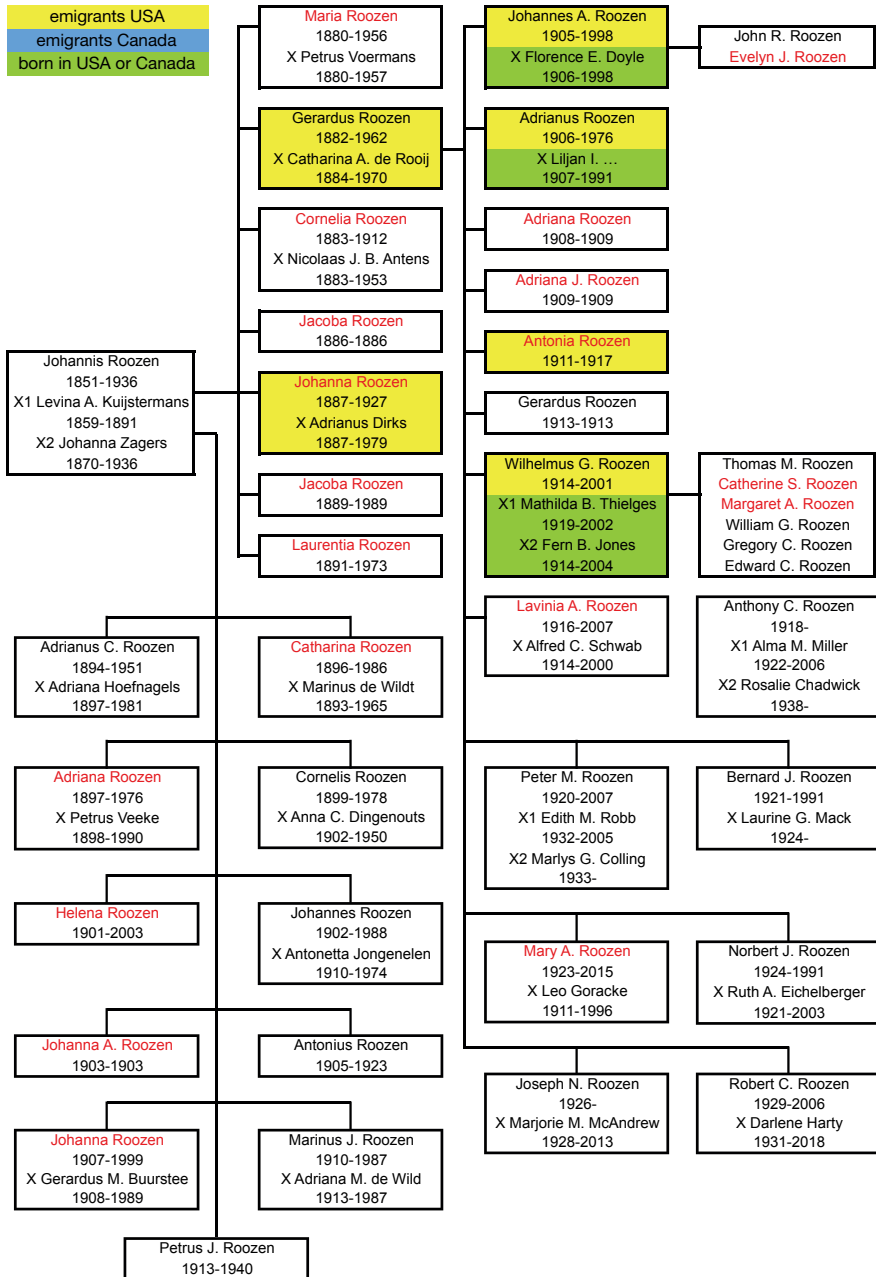
Appendix 5: Van Meel family tree



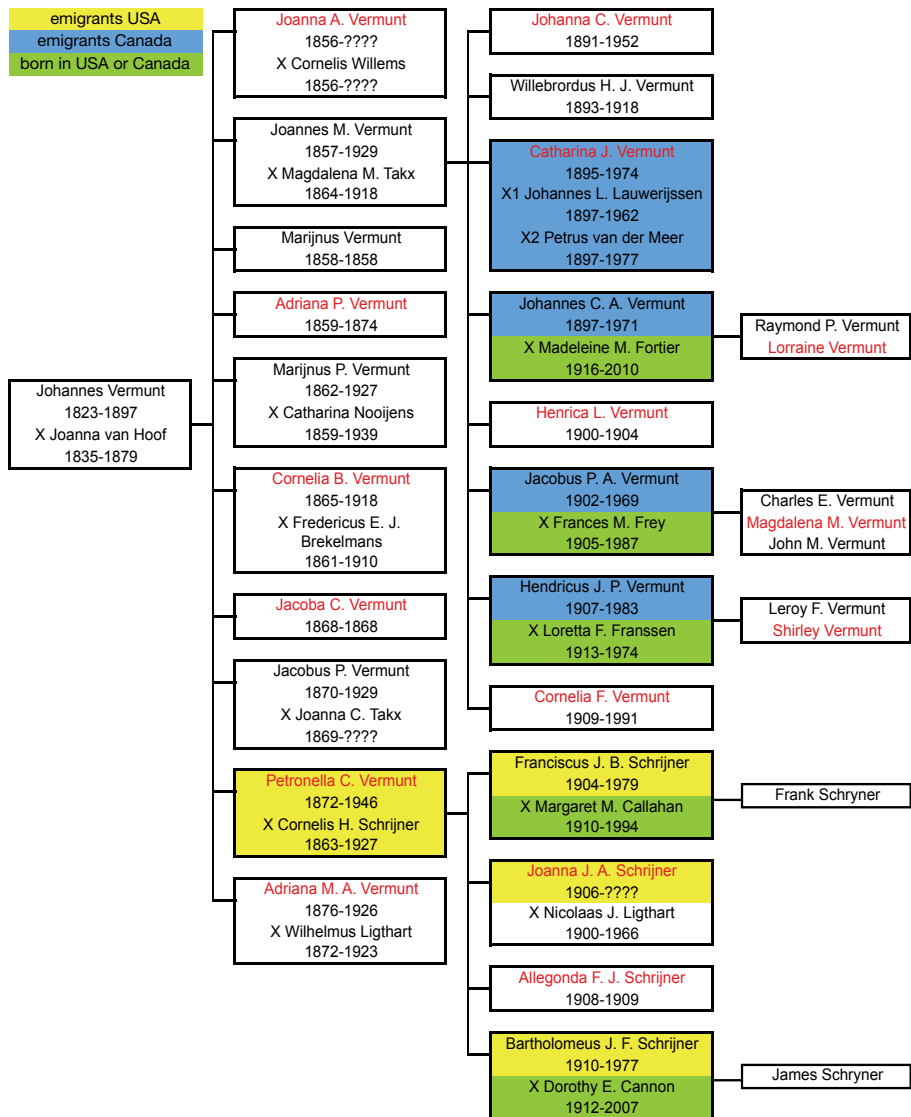
Appendix 6: Family connections Van Oerle and Van der Bom



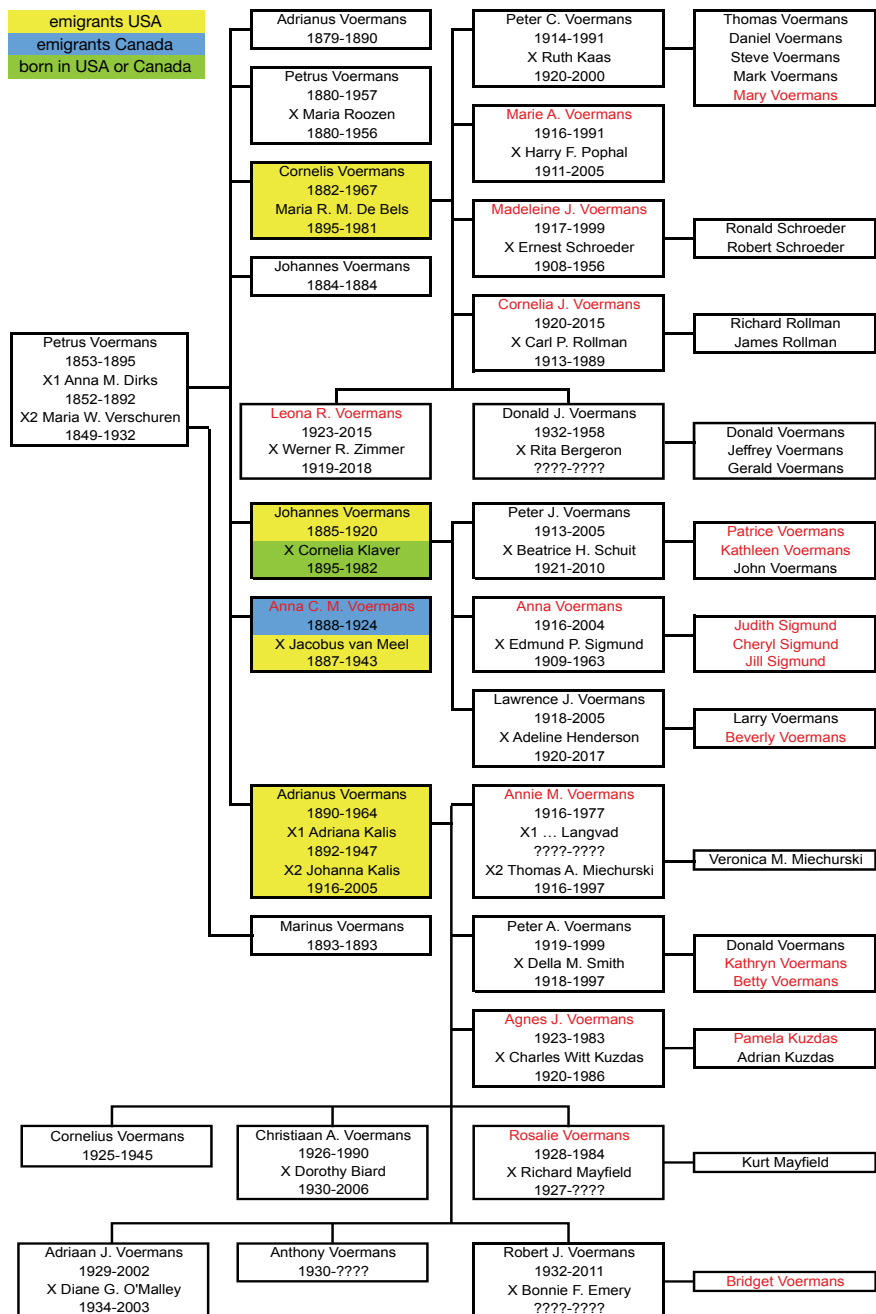
Appendix 7: Roozen family tree



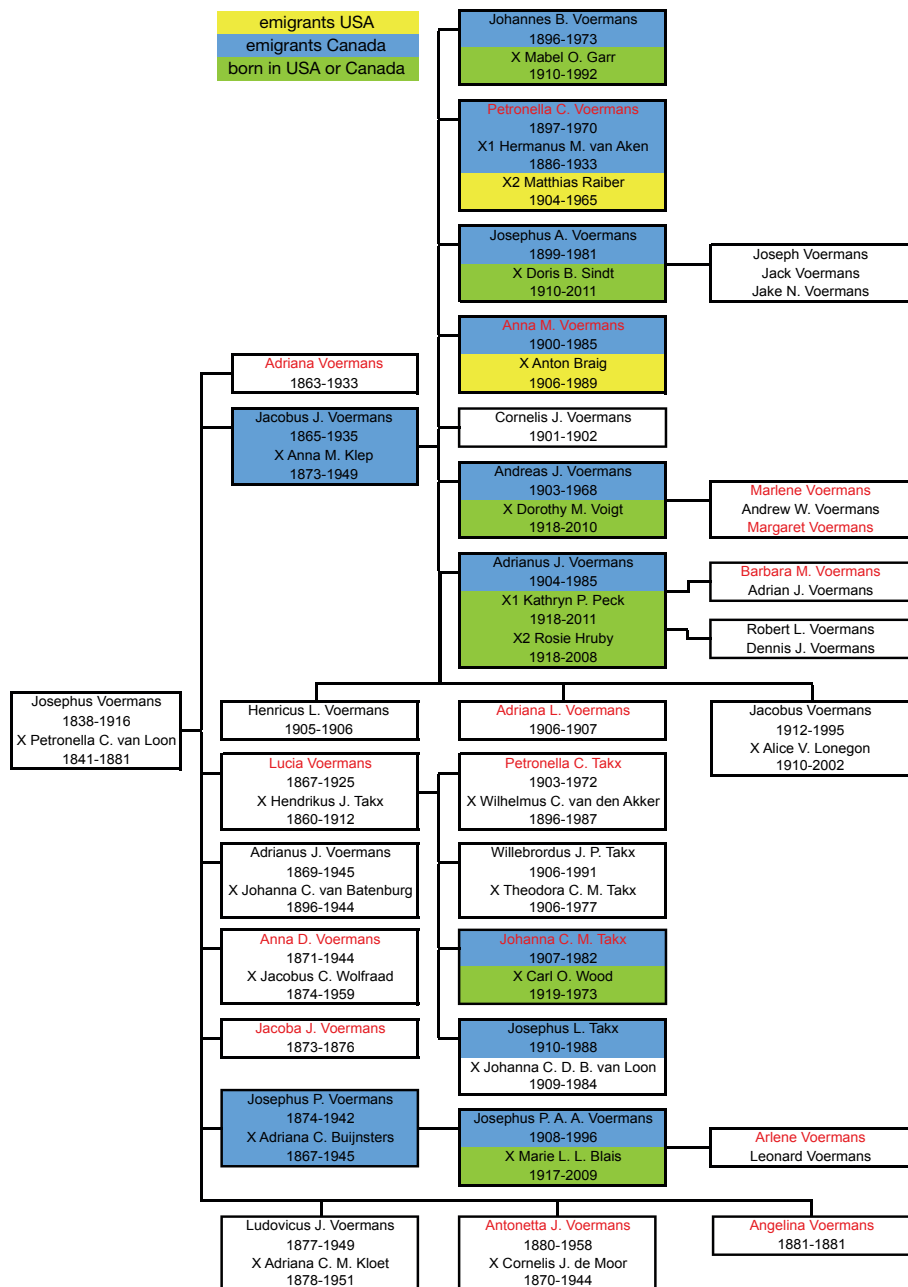
Appendix 8: Vermunt family tree



Appendix 9: Family connections Voermans and Dirks



216



Appendix 11: Transatlantic emigrants

(Hoeveners are in bold)

<i>Last name</i>	<i>First name</i>	<i>Place of birth</i>	<i>Yr of birth</i>	<i>Yr of departure</i>	<i>Primary destination</i>	<i>Married to last name</i>	<i>First name</i>	<i>Page</i>
Aken van	Gerardus	Langeweg	1874	1908	Canada	Damen	Johanna	122
Aken van	Hermanus	Langeweg	1886	1908	Canada	Voermans	Petronella	140
Aken van	Marinus	Hoeven	1901	1915	Canada			122
Aken van	Antonius	Hoeven	1902	1913	Canada			122
Aken van	Hendrika	Hoeven	1903	1913	Canada			122
Aken van	Antonia	Zevenbergen	1905	1913	Canada			122
Bartelen	Egidius	Hoeven	1864	1908	Canada	Rijnvos	Jacoba	126
Bartelen	Johanna	Hoeven	1889	1908	Canada			126
Bartelen	Adrianus	Hoeven	1894	1908	Canada			126
Bartelen	Paulus	Hoeven	1896	1908	Canada			126
Bartelen	Antonia	Hoeven	1899	1908	Canada			126
Bels De	Mary	Tielt, België	1895	1905	US	Voermans	Cornelis	35
Bom van der	Ignatius	Oudenbosch	1874	1909	Canada	Oerle van	Anna	148
Bom van der	Petrus	Hoeven	1903	1910	Canada			148
Bom van der	Maria	Hoeven	1905	1910	Canada			148
Bom van der	Johannes	Hoeven	1907	1910	Canada			148
Bom van der	Alphonsus	Hoeven	1908	1910	Canada			148
Brans	Henderina	Hoeven	1842	1867	US	Hoogstraten van Adriaan		18
Brans	Catharina	Hoeven	1845	1867	US			19
Brans	Catharina	Hoeven	1879	1920	US	Rijen van	Cornelis	58
Bruijn de	Cornelis	Oudenbosch	1889	1913	US			53
Buijnsters	Adriana	Etten-Leur	1867	1908	Canada	Voermans	Josephus	142
Campenhout van	Gerardus	Hoeven	1895	1926	Canada			193
Damen	Johanna	Klundert	1874	1913	Canada	Aken van	Gerardus	122
Dirks	Johannes	Oudenbosch	1848	1908	US			30
Dirks	Petrus	Oudenbosch	1876	1913	US	Schoonen	Francisca	49

<i>Last name</i>	<i>First name</i>	<i>Place of birth</i>	<i>Yr of birth</i>	<i>Yr of departure</i>	<i>Primary destination</i>	<i>Married to last name</i>	<i>First name</i>	<i>Page</i>
Dirks	Johannes	Oudenbosch	1904	1913	US			49
Dirks	Nicolaas	Oudenbosch	1905	1913	US			49
Dirks	Johanna	Oudenbosch	1906	1913	US			49
Dirks	Cornelis	Oudenbosch	1908	1913	US			49
Dirks	Adrianus	Oudenbosch	1887	1914	US	Rozen	Johanna	55
Eekelen van	Adriana	Hoeven	1902	1926	Canada	Lauwerijssen	Cornelis	177
Eekelen van	Joannes	Hoeven	1891	1915	US			97
Engelen	Johanna	Roosendaal	1871	1912	Canada	Lauwerijssen	Cornelis	169
Ginneken van	Cornelis	Hoeven	1907	1927	Canada			199
Ginneken van	Antonius	Hoeven	1908	1927	Canada			199
Ginneken van	Jacobus	Hoeven	1910	1927	Canada			199
Ginneken van	Johanna	Hoeven	1911	1927	Canada	Tetering van	Johannes	199
Hermus	Kornelis	Steenbergen	1882	1912	Canada	Vergouwen	Anna	90
Hoeks	Adrianus	Hoeven	1874	1910	Canada			155
Hoeks	Petrus	Hoeven	1884	1920	US			100
Hoeks	Adriana	Hoeven	1871	1920	US	Sanden van der	Cornelis	70
Hoogstraten van	Adriaan	Zevenbergen	1822	1867	US	Brans	Henderina	18
Hoogstraten van	Johannes	Zevenbergen	1865	1867	US			18
Hoogstraten van	Wilhelmina	Zevenbergen	1866	1867	US			18
Janssen	Maria	Hoeven	1889	1920	US	Musson	Franciscus	99
Jochems	Henricus	Rijsbergen	1890	1927	Canada	Waegemaekers	Catharina	199
Jochems	Maria	Hoeven	1918	1927	Canada			199
Jochems	Johannes	Hoeven	1919	1927	Canada			199
Jochems	Adriana	Hoeven	1920	1927	Canada			199
Jochems	Anna	Hoeven	1922	1927	Canada			199
Jochems	Gerardus	Hoeven	1923	1927	Canada			199
Kalis	Adriana	Hoeven	1892	1915	US	Voermans	Adrianus	44
Kalis	Johanna	Oudenbosch	1916	1956	US	Voermans	Adrianus	44

<i>Last name</i>	<i>First name</i>	<i>Place of birth</i>	<i>Yr of birth</i>	<i>Yr of departure</i>	<i>Primary destination</i>	<i>Married to last name</i>	<i>First name</i>	<i>Page</i>
Klep	Anna	Etten-Leur	1873	1908	Canada	Voermans	Jacobus	137
Lauwerijssen	Cornelis	Hoeven	1866	1911	Canada	Engelen	Johanna	169
Lauwerijssen	Johannes	Nispen	1897	1912	Canada	Vermunt	Catharina	169
Lauwerijssen	Cornelis	Nispen	1898	1912	Canada	Eekelen van	Adriana	169
Lauwerijssen	Johanna	Hoeven	1901	1912	Canada	Schaufeli	Johan	169
Lauwerijssen	Johannes	Hoeven	1870	1921	Canada			185
Loon van	Jacobus	Etten-Leur	1905	1927	Canada			196
Meel van	Jacobus	Hoeven	1887	1908	US	Voermans	Anna	21
Meel van	Antonius	Hoeven	1903	1927	Canada			198
Musson	Franciscus	Aardenburg	1888	1920	US	Janssen	Maria	99
Oerle van	Anna	Hoeven	1877	1910	Canada	Born van der	Ignatius	148
Oerle van	Gerardus	Hoeven	1875	1910	Canada	Pals	Dingena	160
Oerle van	Wilhelmus	Hoeven	1883	1910	Canada			164
Oosterhout van	Wouter	Hoeven	1861	1920	US	Siemons	Anna	83
Oosterhout van	Cornelis	Oudenbosch	1900	1920	US			83
Oosterhout van	Antonius	Hoeven	1902	1920	US			83
Oosterhout van	Johannes	Hoeven	1903	1920	US			83
Oosterhout van	Cornelia	Hoeven	1904	1920	US			83
Oosterhout van	Marinus	Hoeven	1906	1920	US			83
Oosterhout van	Maria	Hoeven	1909	1920	US			83
Oosterhout van	Jacoba	Hoeven	1910	1920	US			83
Oosterhout van	Waltherus	Hoeven	1913	1920	US			83
Oosterhout van	Adrianus	Hoeven	1916	1920	US			83
Pals	Dingena	Princenhage	1890	1909	Canada	Oerle van	Gerardus	162
Pieterse	Wilhelmus	Zegge	1877	1908	US			20
Rijen van	Cornelis	Oudenbosch	1876	1920	US	Brans	Catharina	58
Rijen van	Cornelis	Hoeven	1905	1920	US			58
Rijen van	Petronella	Oudenbosch	1906	1920	US			58

<i>Last name</i>	<i>First name</i>	<i>Place of birth</i>	<i>Yr of birth</i>	<i>Yr of departure</i>	<i>Primary destination</i>	<i>Married to last name</i>	<i>First name</i>	<i>Page</i>
Rijen van	Marinus	Oudenbosch	1908	1920	US			58
Rijen van	Bernardus	Hoeven	1910	1920	US			58
Rijen van	Maria	Hoeven	1911	1920	US			58
Rijen van	Johannes	Hoeven	1912	1920	US			58
Rijen van	Petrus	Hoeven	1916	1920	US			58
Rijen van	Jacobus	Hoeven	1919	1920	US			58
Rijnvos	Jacoba	Oudenbosch	1857	1908	Canada	Bartelen	Egidius	126
Rijnvos	Johannes	Hoeven	1882	1910	Canada			165
Rombouts	Johannes	Hoeven	1871	1910	Canada			167
Rooij de	Catharina	Hoeven	1884	1915	US	Roosen	Gerardus	93
Roozen	Johanna	Hoeven	1887	1914	US	Dirks	Adrianus	55
Roozen	Gerardus	Hoeven	1882	1915	US	Rooij de	Catharina	93
Roozen	Johannes	Noordhoek	1905	1915	US			93
Roozen	Adrianus	Hoeven	1906	1915	US			93
Roozen	Antonia	Hoeven	1911	1915	US			93
Roozen	Wilhelmus	Hoeven	1914	1915	US			93
Sanden van der	Cornelis	Oudenbosch	1865	1920	US	Hoeks	Adriana	70
Sanden van der	Johanna	Hoeven	1900	1920	US			70
Sanden van der	Maria	Hoeven	1901	1920	US			70
Sanden van der	Martinus	Hoeven	1902	1920	US			70
Sanden van der	Johannes	Hoeven	1903	1920	US			70
Sanden van der	Petrus	Hoeven	1905	1920	US			70
Sanden van der	Jacobus	Hoeven	1906	1920	US			70
Sanden van der	Adrianus	Hoeven	1907	1920	US			70
Sanden van der	Cornelis	Hoeven	1909	1920	US			70
Schaufeli	Johan	Uift	1892	1911	Canada	Lauwerijssen	Johanna	182
Schoonen	Francisca	Oudenbosch	1878	1913	US	Dirks	Petrus	49
Schrijner	Cornelis	Baardwijk	1863	1923	US	Vermunt	Petronella	106

<i>Last name</i>	<i>First name</i>	<i>Place of birth</i>	<i>Yr of birth</i>	<i>Yr of departure</i>	<i>Primary destination</i>	<i>Married to last name</i>	<i>First name</i>	<i>Page</i>
Schrijner	Franciscus	Baardwijk	1904	1923	US			106
Schrijner	Joanna	Baardwijk	1906	1923	US			106
Schrijner	Bartholomeus	Baardwijk	1910	1923	US			106
Siemons	Anna	Hoeven	1875	1920	US	Oosterhout van	Wouter	83
Takx	Josephus	Hoeven	1910	1927	Canada			195
Tetering van	Johannes	Wagenberg	1907	1924	Canada	 Ginneken van	Johanna	201
Vergouwen	Anna Cornelia	Hoeven	1890	1914	US	Hermus	Kornelis	90
Vermunt	Catharina	Hoeven	1895	1924	Canada	Lauwerijssen	Johannes	174
Vermunt	Petronella	Etten-Leur	1872	1923	US	Schrijner	Cornelis	106
Vermunt	Johannes A.	Etten-Leur	1888	1923	Canada			203
Vermunt	Johannes C.	Hoeven	1897	1924	Canada			187
Vermunt	Jacobus	Hoeven	1902	1924	Canada			189
Vermunt	Hendricus	Hoeven	1907	1927	Canada			191
Voermans	Anna	Oudenbosch	1888	1912	Canada	Meel van	Jacobus	21
Voermans	Jacobus	Etten-Leur	1865	1908	Canada	Klep	Anna	137
Voermans	Johannes	Etten-Leur	1896	1908	Canada			137
Voermans	Petronella	Etten-Leur	1897	1908	Canada	Aken van	Hermanus	137
Voermans	Josephus	Etten-Leur	1899	1908	Canada			137
Voermans	Anna Maria	Etten-Leur	1900	1908	Canada			137
Voermans	Andreas	Etten-Leur	1903	1908	Canada			137
Voermans	Adrianus	Etten-Leur	1904	1908	Canada			137
Voermans	Josephus	Etten-Leur	1874	1908	Canada	Buijinsters	Adriana	142
Voermans	Josephus	Roosendaal	1908	1908	Canada			142
Voermans	Cornelis	Oudenbosch	1882	1908	US	De Bels	Mary	35
Voermans	Johannes	Oudenbosch	1885	1911	US			40
Voermans	Adrianus	Oudenbosch	1890	1912	US	Kalis	Adriana	44
Waegemaekers	Catharina	Chaam	1884	1927	Canada	Jochems	Henricus	199
Weert de	Leonardus	Steenbergen	1891	1914	US			92

SOURCES AND LITERATURE

Sources

A large number of Dutch and international websites have been consulted for this publication.

ancestry.com	census, US and Canada birth, marriage and death registers, US and Canada naturalization, US passenger lists, US, Canada and England voter lists WWI and WWII draft registration cards
bac-lac.gc.ca	naturalization, Canada
bhic.nl	birth, marriage and death registers, population registers
content.wisconsinhistory.org	maps Wisconsin, US
delper.nl	newspapers, The Netherlands
familysearch.org	civil status, birth and marriage registers, The Netherlands and Belgium population registers, The Netherlands naturalization, US passenger lists cemeteries and graves passenger lists
findagrave.com	newspapers, US and Canada
libertyellisfoundation.org	newspapers, US
newspapers.com	newspapers, US
newspaperarchive.com	newspapers, US
genealogybank.com	newspapers Strathmore, Alberta, Canada
peel.library.ualberta.ca	birth, marriage, death and population registers
regionaalarchief Tilburg.nl	maps Alberta, Canada
ulet.ca	birth, marriage, death and population registers
westbrabantsarchief.nl	

Information has also been received in various forms from descendants of Hoeven emigrants living in Canada and the United States and from Dutch family members:

D. Brugel-Brans, Sprundel, The Netherlands,
Bartelen family, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada,
A. van Eekelen, Hoeven, The Netherlands,
J. Franssen-Anderson, Calgary, Alberta, Canada,
M. Hendricks-Lauweryssen, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada,
J. Lambel-Biggs, Fresno, California, US,
P. Lauwerijssen, Hoeven, The Netherlands,
C. Lauwerijssen, Hoeven, The Netherlands,
A. van Meel, Hoeven, The Netherlands,
D. O'Connor, St. Albert, Alberta, Canada,
C. van de Pas, Born, The Netherlands, collections family archive,
E. Pieterse, Veeningen, The Netherlands,
J. van Ryen, Greensboro, North Carolina, US,
K. Schiltz-van Ryen, Harrison, Wisconsin, US,
F. Takx, Etten-Leur, The Netherlands,

A. Vergouwen, Hoeven, The Netherlands,
D. Voermans, Oud Gastel, The Netherlands,
G. Voermans, Harrison, Wisconsin, US,
Collections heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven, Hoeven, The Netherlands.

Literature

Beyond

Beyond Our Prairie Trails. Volume II, Family Histories. Alberta, 1995.

Brans

Brans, Cees, Kees Brans en Diny Brugel-Brans, *Reünie van de familie Brans 14 oktober 2000.* Breda/Sprundel/Oudenbosch, The Netherlands, 2000.

Broos

Broos, Harry, *Het ontstaan van de boerderijen in Standdaarbuiten*, in: 't Sandt daer buyten, magazine local history society, volume 24 (2012), number 1.

Davidson

Davidson, J., *Second Annual Report Botanical Office of the Province British Columbia.* Victoria BC, 1915.

Doremalen

Doremalen, Henk van, *Tilburgse zoeaven ten strijde voor de paus*, in: Tilburg, magazine for history, monuments and culture, volume 14, no. 2, October 1996.

English

The English Colony – Nightingale and District. S.pl., 1979.

Gelder

Gelder, Willem de, *Een Nederlandse pionier op de prairies. Brieven van een pionier 1910-1913.* Zeist, The Netherlands, 1977.

Hedges

Hedges, James B., *Building the Canadian West.* New York, 1939.

Stekelenburg

Stekelenburg, H.A.V.M. van, *Landverhuizing als regionaal verschijnsel. Van Noord-Brabant naar Noord-Amerika 1820-1880.* Tilburg, The Netherlands, 1991.

Stekelenburg

Stekelenburg, H.A.V.M. van, *“Hier is alles vooruitgang”. Landverhuizing van Noord-Brabant naar Noord-Amerika, 1880-1940.* Tilburg, The Netherlands, 1996.

Strathmore

Strathmore, the village that moved. A story of the Town of Strathmore. S.pl, 1986.

VanderVoort

VanderVoort, Rose en Emma Van Strydonk, *Harrison Homestead History Circa 1978 and beyond.* S.pl., s.yr. (c. 2006).

Verhoeven

Verhoeven, D. en A. van Heijst, *Zusters van 't Ketrientje 1838-2013. Franciscanessen van Bergen op Zoom.* Nijmegen, The Netherlands, 2013.

Voermans

Voermans, Grant, *The Harrison History: Over 100 Years of Logging, Farming and Bootlegging.* Harrison, 1998.

Weijers

Weijers, Antoon, *De waarheid over Alberta. De algemeene toestand geschetst door Antoon Weijers farmer Akenstad - Strathmore Alta - Canada.* Tilburg, The Netherlands, 1908.

This edition has been partly made possible
by a financial contribution from:



Also interested in sponsoring heemkundekring De Honderd Hoeven?
Contact

secretary P. Lauwerijssen
Ericalaan 56
4741 EL Hoeven
The Netherlands
phone +31-165-503566

or mail to secretariaat@honderdhoeven.nl

