







A Narrative of Jan Brouwer by Richard Brewer, 2012

Dear Brewer Group (and other interested parties),

I would like to share with you a narrative tale of our ancestral patriarch Johannes (Jan) Brouwer and his family, recounting their emigration to the New World from Holland in 1656 and their subsequent life in New Amsterdam and New Amersfoort, later known as Flatlands. The resulting file (PDF) is too large (~17 MB) to send you as an e-mail attachment -- it would likely exceed the file limits many e-mail hosts impose. Therefore, I have uploaded it to the new google drive cloud storage which you can access and view the document via the following link:

https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B2w2GtHPfJb_WkNERExUalFFY2s

The document can be read on-line, but the resolution google provides in that mode is poor, very much poorer than the document itself so the viewing of pictures and text suffers -- making it possible but difficult to read in this manner. Therefore, I recommend that you download the PDF to your computer where you can read it as a crisp, clear document displaying both sharp text and pictures. A much more satisfying experience.

You can download it by clicking on the link above, then selecting File in the upper left corner and clicking on Download -- it will download as a PDF document on your computer. The difference in picture resolution, text font, and ease of reading will be evident.

The sum of our current documented knowledge of Jan Brouwer of Flatlands can be placed on a single page, as evidenced on the [Brouwer Genealogy Database posted by Chris Chester](#).

So why have I taken 72 pages to write up this narrative? I have tried to capture what we know, or can reasonably guess using historical documents reflecting the times and places, about the adventures of Jan & family sailing from Amsterdam, working in New Amsterdam and then moving to New Amersfoort (Flatlands) where he and Jannetje lived out their remaining years. Please note that I have embedded some links to some short videos of Amsterdam in the Golden Ages of the 17th century, and a video fly-by of old New Amsterdam in 1664. They are an integral part of the story and will enrich your appreciation of the times. All the links should work and I do recommend you follow them to the videos as they come up in the story, returning to the narrative after viewing them.

It may be of interest to you to know that the document was prepared using the new Apple application "iAuthor" from i-tunes which is designed to create i-Pad documents for publication at the Apple "iBooks" store but also provides a way to share the document thus created in PDF format or for viewing on an iPad without going through "iBooks". I decided to try it out by using it to write this chapter on the history of Jan Brouwer. I hope you enjoy it and I would be interested in receiving any feedback you'd care to share.

Warmest Regards,

Richard

Your Brewer Surname Project Administrator and Cousin