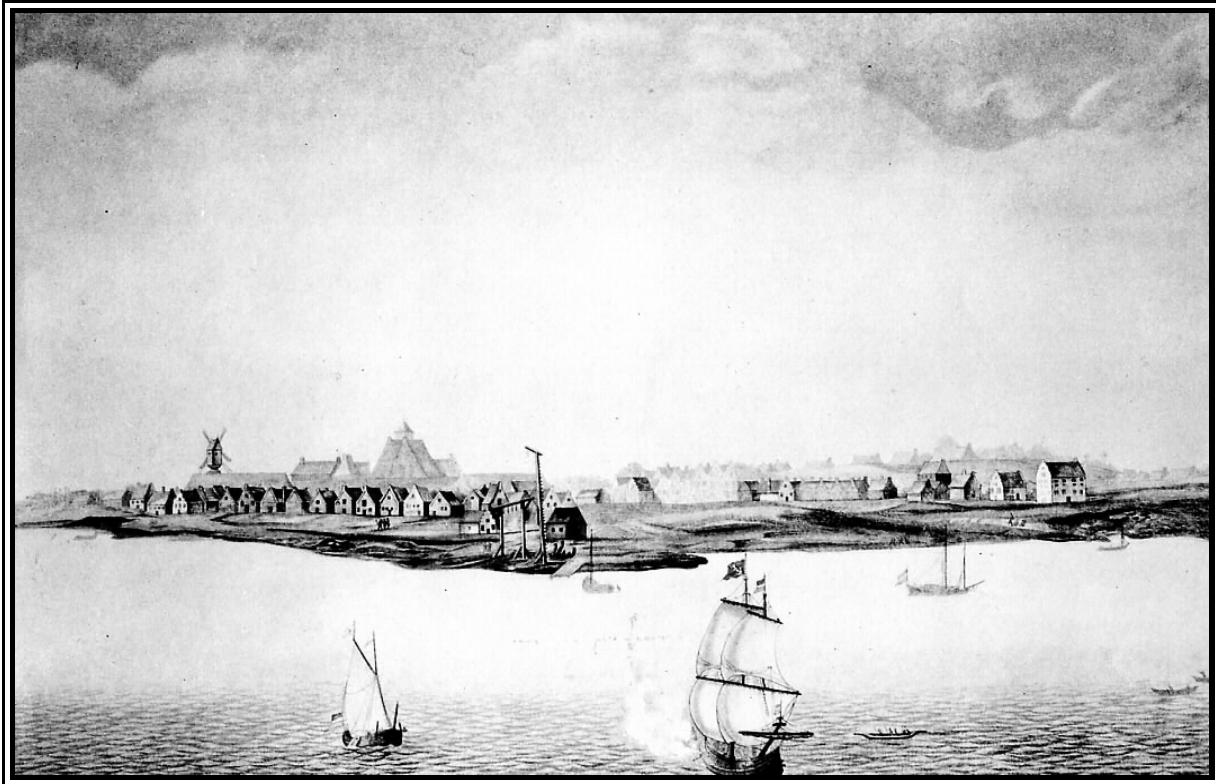


The  
*Vanguard*



*The Newsletter of the van Aersdalen Family Association*



*New Amsterdam as Sijmon Jansz van Aersdalen First Saw It*

This is the "Prototype View" of "New Amsterdam, now New York on Manhattan Island", a watercolor made sometime after the Dutch surrender, now in the Dutch archives. Taken from *An Album of New Netherland* by Maud Esther Dilliard, Bramhall House, NY, 1963, it "shows the city between the autumn of 1650 and the summer of 1653".

This Issue of The *Vanguard*  
is Dedicated to  
the Memory of  
**W. T. "Ted" VANORSDALE**  
Who Introduced Me to My Ancestors

and in Honor of  
**BETTY REED**  
A True Cousin Whose Help & Christian Example  
Remind Me of the Vans at Their Best

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| REMEMBERING SIJMON JANSZ.....                                  | 3  |
| JOHN B. VAN ARSDALEN SR.<br>by Barbara L. Van Norsdall.....    | 11 |
| JOHN B. VAN ARSDALEN JR.<br>by Barbara L. Van Norsdall.....    | 15 |
| THE VAN MYTHOS.....  | 17 |
| NEWS .....   | 22 |
| QUERIES .....  | 23 |
| SARAH WYCKOFF VAN AERSDALEN<br>by Barbara L. Van Norsdall..... | 24 |
| SIGNING OFF .....  | 26 |



This is not only the sole photo I have of my father, Russ, and grandfather together, but the only one I have of my grandfather beyond his twenties. I could not put The *Vanguard* to rest without tipping my hat to them.

This edition marks the final issue of The *Vanguard*. Due to career demands, I will be unable to continue publication, although I will continue to research. I look forward to reviving The *Vanguard* in a few years.

Thanks to all of you who have faithfully subscribed, and a special thank-you to those of you who have contributed articles, photos, and material. *Tot ziens*.

*Charles R. Vanorsdale*

REMEMBERING  
OUR FAMILY PROGENITOR

# Sijmon Jansz van Aersdalen

Sijmon Jansz van Aersdalen

In 1628, Flanders was besieged. The rolling hills and verdant plains of Europe's arguably wealthiest province was one of the main theaters in the Eighty Years' War, pitting Spanish, French, and Dutch troops against one another in a war of political advantage and religious freedom.

Flanders had been part of the Spanish Netherlands since 1516, when Charles V, a scion of the Habsburg Empire, ascended the throne. Charles was the son of Philip I of the Low Countries and Princess Joanna of Spain, Philip being the heir of the Habsburgs from his father Archduke Maximilian and Joanna being the heir of Castile and Aragon from her parents Ferdinand and Isabella (the noted royal financiers of Christopher Columbus). Charles V ushered in an era of prosperity for Flanders but at the expense of widening the gap between the upper and lower classes. In 1555, he abdicated the throne in favor of his son, Philip II.

Philip II had little interest in preserving the existing ruling class in the Low Countries and was particularly intolerant of the lower classes. At about this time, the fledgling spirit of Calvinism was spreading throughout the Low Countries and Philip II, a fervent Catholic, resolved himself to crush the religion before it resulted in any further subversion to his rule. Suspected Calvinist "Protestants" were arrested, interrogated, tortured, expelled, and even executed as the King sought to root out the evil influence. This tinderbox erupted into flames when, in 1566, Protestants pulled down and destroyed statues they considered

idolatrous at several Catholic churches. King Philip responded by imposing martial law, sending troops under the merciless Duke of Alva to squelch the uprising. Instead of smothering the fire, the action only fanned the flames, and the Eighty Years' War began.

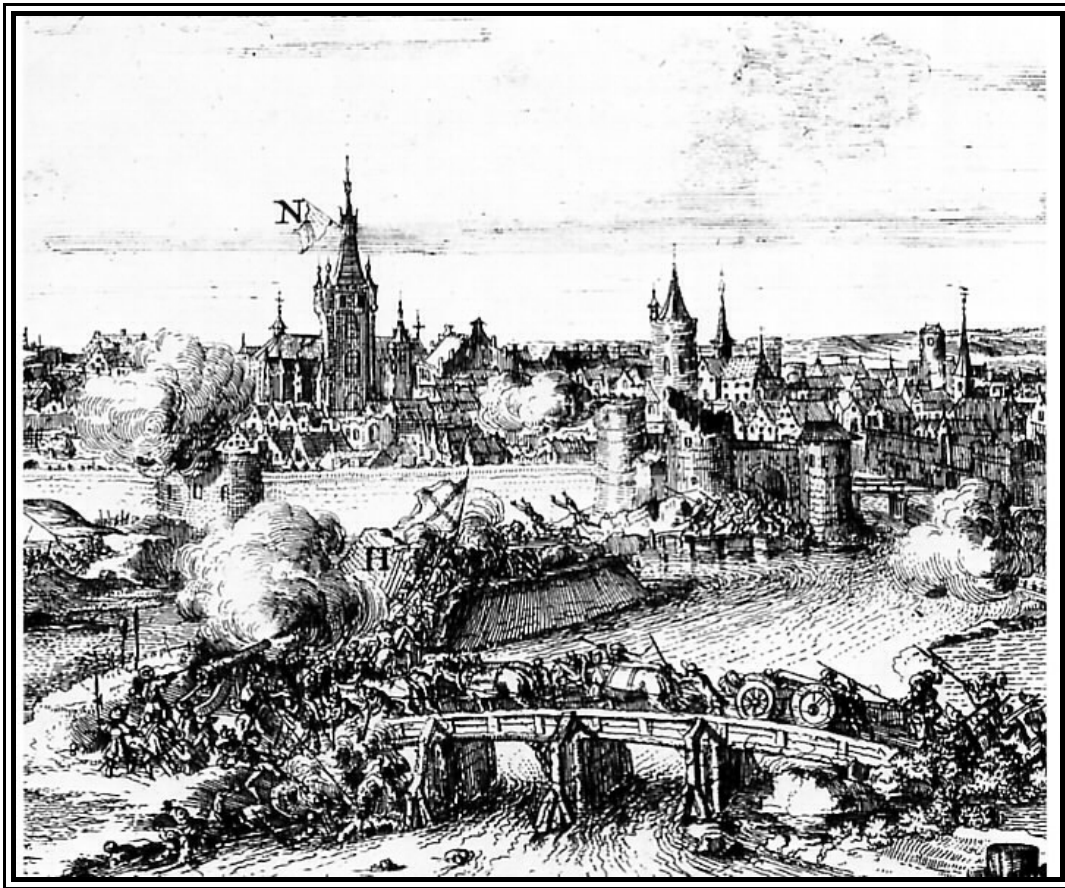
In 1573, after seven of the bloodiest years in Flanders' history, the Duke of Alva was replaced by a more moderate "governor" who facilitated the signing of a peace accord for the southern provinces of the Low Countries. The diplomatic process was, nevertheless, enforced militarily. Flanders and neighboring Brabant province became effectively Catholic in 1579, but the Protestants could either worship in secret or emigrate to the northern provinces which had become officially Protestant. Many chose the latter option.

The remaining Protestant population of Flanders had been greatly diminished and over the years the Protestant-Catholic rift widened irreparably. Protestants were now being hunted down, tried as heretics and witches, and burned at the stake.

Beneath this cloud of political and religious upheaval, a child is born in Nukerke, East Flanders. He was baptized on Sunday, February 27, 1628 to Jan Pauwelsz van Aersdalen and Gerarda (Geertje) Philipse Haelters, and named *Sijmon*, possibly after one of the witnesses, Sijmon de Keyser [1]. Dutch tradition - and probably Flemish as well - dictated that a mother not go out in public for six weeks after childbirth, and only then for the purpose of the child's baptism. If this custom was followed, then we can assume that Sijmon was born in the first half of January 1628.

Sijmon was the third known son of Jan Pauwelsz, a carpet or cloth-weaver, which was a popular vocation in East Flanders at that time. It is possible that another son had been born before Sijmon but baptized at a different church. Sijmon's siblings eventually included brothers Philip (*Philippus*, baptized June 24, 1624; [1]), possibly a Pauwel, Jan (*Joannes*, baptized March 22, 1626; [1]), Pieter (probably born about 1630 in Flanders), and Joost (*Judocus*, baptized October 2, 1638; [2]), as well as sisters Egidia (baptized April 10, 1633; [2]) and Joanna (baptized December 4, 1635; [2]). It is likely that Sijmon also had a sister named Fiermijne named for their paternal grandmother.

References at the end of the article (p. 10)



Detail of *The Siege of Oudenaarde 1582* by P. Melchor de Novar, 1682: taken from "Siege Warfare - The Fortress in the Early Modern World 1494-1660", Christopher Duffy, Barnes & Noble Books, New York, 1996, p. 77.

The last known baptismal record for a child of Jan and Gerarda's was that of Joost.

However, bringing more children into a war-torn world was a logistically if not morally questionable act. Tensions escalated in the area and troops routinely ebbed and flowed through Flanders. Oudenaarde, just three miles across the Schelde River from Nukerke, was the scene of several bloody skirmishes. Around 1640, Jan decided to abandon Nukerke and seek out the relative stability of the Protestant-dominated Northern Provinces. Jan took his family to Gouda (where, it appears, his parents were married in 1588) and likewise abandoned his vocation as a carpet-weaver to become a mustard-grinder. On July 20, 1642 Jan was confirmed (as "Jan van Arsdal") as a member of the Dutch Reformed Church at Gouda [3]. He bought a house for his family on November 21 of that year [4] and eight years later

purchased the adjacent one as well [5].

Sijmon had an itch to strike out on his own. Barely in his twenties, he moved away from the rest of the family in Gouda to seek his fortune in the metropolis of Amsterdam. This is probably the first evidence of the drive of this young man who would dare to venture into a New World and become the patriarch of a large and successful family. In Amsterdam, he pursued a career in pottery-making, which had become so prolific an industry that several streets in the city were dedicated to the trade. Starting around 1600, many potters from the Southern Netherlands (Belgium) fled to Amsterdam to escape religious persecution and the fragmentation of the local pottery industry. Consequently, Amsterdam blossomed into a major supplier of pottery, especially faïence and Delftware styles. However, the proliferation of so many pottery shops resulted in widespread and

occasionally devastating outbreaks of fire, and when Amsterdam expanded in 1621, all potteries were banned to the outside of the city. One important center was located along the river Amstel, just outside the St. Anthony's port city-gate [6]. It was there that, by 1650, Sijmon had taken up residence on a street called *Pottebakkerspad* or "potter's path".

On March 26, 1650, Sijmon produced documentation of his father's consent in order to marry Marritje Baltusdr, an orphan two years his junior.

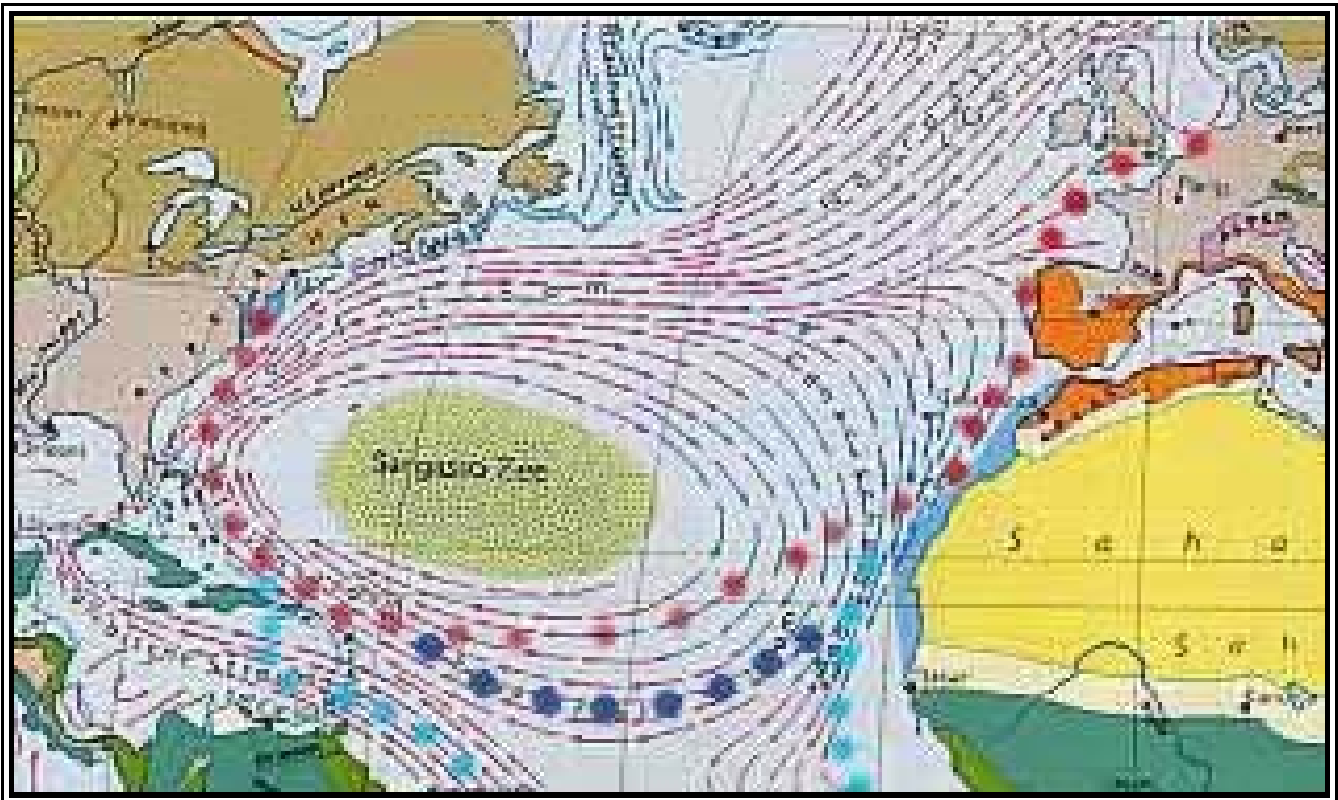
"Compareerden als vooren Simon Janss. van Niekerck, pottebacker, out 22 jaer, vertoon. acte van vaders consent, woonen. opt Pottebackerspadt ende Marritie Baltus van A., out 20 jaer, woon. int Lelystraetje, geen ouders hebbende (appeared as before Simon Janss from Niekerck, a potter, aged 22 years, producing a letter of consent from his father, living in potter's path and Marritie Baltus, from Amsterdam, aged 20 years, living in Leliestreet, having no parents (parents deceased)."

They were wed at the Oude Kerk, the oldest church in Amsterdam, by Rev. Borsius on April 19, 1650 [7]. Sijmon was young, had a beautiful bride and a promising, stable job; the future looked bright.

The couple's first child, daughter Sijlijntje, was born in January 1651. She was baptized at the Zuiderkerk on February 26, 1651 [8]. Sijlijntje was probably named after Marritje's mother, while Sijmon's mother served as a witness. According to Dutch tradition, the next daughter would be named for Sijmon's mother, Gerarda or Geertje, but Sijmon's mother would not live long enough to enjoy that honor. In October, she passed away and was buried on the 30<sup>th</sup> of that month at St. Jan's Kerk in Gouda [9]. Not long thereafter, widower Jan Pauwelsz began courting widow Margarieta Philipsdr. They were married in Haastrecht near Gouda on August 20, 1652, some ten months after Geertje's passing [10]. Sijmon's first son, Jan Simonsz, was baptized on

November 19, 1652 at Nieuwe Kerk [11]. He was obviously named for his paternal grandfather. With his family growing, Sijmon - again seeking opportunities - began looking for a better way of life, a house inside the city walls, a better income. Opportunity soon finds him. For years, there had been a strong recruiting effort to populate New Netherland with young, energetic "fortune-seekers". In fact, the Secretary of the New Netherland colony, Cornelis van Tienhoven, wrote a pamphlet dated March 4, 1650 entitled "Information Relative to Taking Up Land in New Netherland, in the Form of Colonies or Private Bouweries" [12]. This "brochure" was an explicit enticement for would-be colonists and was circulated throughout Holland. It is possible that Sijmon, now almost 25, read some of the persuasive literature printed by the Dutch West India Company and became enamored by the lure of the New World. Family history states that Sijmon, a potter, was *sent* to New Netherland to study the utility of the native clays for pottery making. If so, no evidence has yet been uncovered to substantiate this assertion. No potters' guild existed in Amsterdam at that time, so if Sijmon was an apprentice to a New Netherland-looking master potter, we cannot corroborate such motivation. Further, Sijmon's name does not appear on any of the almost fifty Amsterdam notaries' records of 1653, settling any business (such as signing a contract with an employer or paying debts) prior to embarking on his journey [13]. There is no documentation regarding who paid for Sijmon's way to New Netherland, whether by himself or by a patron. The average cost to sail to New Amsterdam at that time was about 36 florins [14]. Whatever instigated his plan, Sijmon Jansz van Aersdalen decided to venture to New Netherland in 1653.

When did Sijmon leave? Sijmon's older brother, Philip, was married in Gouda on May 13, 1653 [15]. It is believed that the two brothers were close, and so it is likely that Sijmon wished to attend his brother's wedding. Consequently, we can assume that he left Amsterdam after May. Recently, it has become known that two ships made the journey from Amsterdam to New Netherland that year, both departing at the same time [16]. These ships were the *Coninck Salomon* and the *Geldersche Blom* (*King Solomon* and the *Flower of Gelderland*). (Family history states that Sijmon sailed aboard the *Dynasty*. No vessel by that name was known to have made the journey



The Two Most Likely Routes Sijmon Could Have Taken to New Netherland -- via the Canary Islands (red) or via the Cape Verde Islands (dark blue). Courtesy Willem Rabbelier ([www.rabbel.info/streams.html](http://www.rabbel.info/streams.html))

to New Netherland.) The two ships left Amsterdam on Saturday, August 23, 1653 for the Dutch island of Texel, there to begin the trans-Atlantic voyage.

Amsterdam was not situated on a coastline of the ocean or a major sea, such as the North Sea. What today is reclaimed polderland around Amsterdam was, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, open water - the Zuiderzee. Some 60 miles of the Zuiderzee had to be traversed before reaching Texel and the North Sea. Once at the harbor of Texel, weather conditions dictated any further sailing. Consequently, due to the capricious nature of the North Sea, many ships had to wait - sometimes for weeks - for the weather to improve satisfactorily. Additionally, Texel was a vital source of fresh water for the long journey. Many wells on the island had been dug specifically for the travelers, and the water bought from them was used to finance a local orphanage [17]. The water in Amsterdam was notoriously foul even in those days, as effluents from tanneries and linen-bleaching fields found their noxious ways into the

Amstel.

The *Coninck Salomon* was a WIC (West India Company) ship while the *Geldersche Blom* was a “galjoot”. A galjoot, or galliot, was a long, narrow light-draft Dutch merchant ship carrying a mainmast and a jigger with a mainsail having a long foot and short gaff. It is known that the *Geldersche Blom* carried passengers as well as cargo.

From Texel, the Dutch ships embarked on the journey following one of four well-established routes. Although we may never know the exact route Sijmon took, we can narrow it down to the two most likely crossings.

From Holland, the ships first sailed past the southern tip of England, on occasion stopping for supplies or repairs at Portsmouth or Plymouth. This was not the case in 1653, however, as the First English War was raging, and docking a Dutch ship at an English harbor was ill-advised. Otherwise, the ships continued on along the coasts of Spain and Portugal destined for a stopover

either at the Canary or, further south, Cape Verde Islands.

If Sijmon's ship went to the Cape Verde Islands, they sailed past the west coast of Africa on their way to Brazil along the North Equatorial Current, aided by the Northeast Trade Wind. This took them to the Leeward Islands of the Caribbean (probably Curaçao or perhaps Tobago). From that locale, they caught the Antilles Stream to the Gulf Stream along the eastern North American coast to their destination, the mouth of the Hudson River.

If Sijmon's ship instead enjoyed a stopover at the Canary Islands, they would then turn west to either the Leeward or the Windward Islands (the Netherlands Antilles) of St. Kitts, St. Eustace, St. Maarten, or St. Saba. From either archipelago, the ships would then follow the Antilles Stream north to the Gulf Stream and then on to the Hudson River.

The *Geldersche Blom* anchored at New Amsterdam on Sunday, November 2, 1653 with the *Coninck Salomon* arriving one day later. The trans-Atlantic trip had taken a little over two months, an average time in those days.

Where did Sijmon go upon his arrival? It can be assumed that employment was waiting for him; if he had been sent to New Netherland to study the native clays, he would have a potter's shop to report to and, probably, a master potter under whose wing he would be taken. Sijmon would undoubtedly live near this potter's shop, either with the potter or at a boarding house close by. Even if he had not been sent, i.e. he had gone on his own free will, he would have to work as a potter, as there is no reason to assume he could make a living doing anything else, initially. Because Sijmon intended to return to Holland, we must assume he did not buy a house during his early years in New Netherland. It is unclear whether Sijmon lived in New Amsterdam upon his arrival or moved to New Amersfoort (Flatlands) on Long Island.

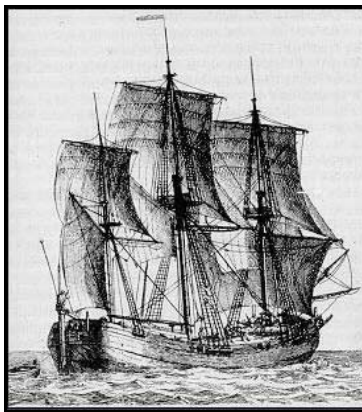
Not long after his arrival, Sijmon received bad news from home. In January 1654, Sijmon's father Jan died in Gouda. He was buried in St. Jan's Kerk

on January 12, 1654 [18]. Sijmon's brother Philip appeared in court on March 10, 1654 to attest that the minor children of their father would have a guardian:

"Philip Jansz Aesdael certifies he will assume guardianship of the minor children of the late Jan Poulissen van Aesdal and Geertje Philips" [19]

Shortly thereafter, Philip again goes to court to seek permission from the Gouda town council to sell his father's houses in order to provide for the minor children. This is granted on April 24, 1654.

"Philip Jansz Aersdaalen, on behalf of himself acting as a guardian to his minor brother Pieter Jansz and as a proxy to his brother Sijmon Jansz van Aersdale who is staying abroad, being the children and heirs to Jan Pauwlesz van Aersdael sells two houses and land in Naaierstraat at Gouda to Pieter van Stompwijk at f 1130, -, -." [20].



Dutch "Galjoot"

Family history relates that Sijmon was about to return to Holland when he learned of the death of his wife and children. Although the timing of his intended return has not been corroborated, it is now known that his wife, Marritje, and at least one but probably both of his children were, indeed, victims of the plague. (Plague deaths in Amsterdam in 1655 were tallied at 16,727 or roughly 12.5% of the city's inhabitants [21]). On November 18, 1655 "a child of Seymen Janssen, potter" [22] was buried in St. Anthony's churchyard, Amsterdam, followed by its mother only eight days later [23]. This information probably reached Sijmon by late summer/early fall 1656. In a little over a four-year period, Sijmon had lost his parents, his wife, and his children. Devastated, Sijmon had little to return to, and seeing before him his home away from home for the last three years and a land with limitless possibilities, he decided to cast his lot with the enterprising Dutch New World.

Again as a young man in another thriving community, Sijmon's prospects were propitious. He began courting Pieterje Claese van Schouw, a

daughter of tobacco merchant Claes (Nicholas) Cornelissen van Schouw. Sijmon and Pieterje married about 1658, presumably in Flatlands. Their first child was born probably in the next year, and named Geertje in honor of her paternal grandmother.

In the meantime, perhaps with the help of his father-in-law, Sijmon began gaining civic prominence. On May 3, 1660 Sijmon was appointed a schepen of New Amersfoort (Flatlands) [24]. A schepen was a magistrate who presided over cases in town court and was a combination of sheriff and alderman in addition to a magistrate. One of his responsibilities was the review and passing of local laws and ordinances. In the words of Hoppin, Sijmon “seems early ... to have possessed an ability and influence in matters political that caused him to be selected over older men of longer residence ... to represent Amersfoort” [25]. Indeed, at the age of 35, Sijmon was chosen to represent Amersfoort in a “Convention Holden at New Amsterdam, on July 3, 1663, to engage the several Dutch towns to keep up an armed force for public protection” [26].

But not everything is easy for Sijmon. On Tuesday, August 28, 1663, "Sijmon Janzen" appears in court against carpenter Jan Teunizen and witnesses Willem Steenhalder and wife, claiming that Teunizen wouldn't release a house to Sijmon for which he had been paid. The court requested further proof from Sijmon, and so on September 4th, "Sijmon Janzen Asdalen" produces testimonials from two witnesses (whose identities were undisclosed in the published transcription). Teunizen is still unmoved, so Sijmon challenges him to take an oath before the court regarding the terms of the sale. Teunizen refuses, but Sijmon agrees to go on record with his own oath. Finding this satisfactory, the court rules in favor of Sijmon and he takes possession of the house [27].

(This appears to be the same Jan Teunizen who may have accompanied Sijmon to New Netherland in 1653. If so, this would be Jan Teunizen van Duykhuis, also a resident of Flatlands. In *The Journal of Jasper Danckaerts* [28], Danckaerts held Jan Teunissen in low esteem. “He welcomed us, but somewhat coldly, and so demeaned himself all the time we were there, as to astonish my comrade at the change, but not me entirely, for I had observed this falling off while we were yet at sea ...”. Jan Teunizen

had apparently returned to Holland for some business and had come back to New Netherland on the same ship as Danckaerts in June 1679.)

In February 1664, Sijmon and his father-in-law become further involved in the building tensions with the British. On the 19th, they and three other witnesses appear before a notary at Midwout (Flatbush) to testify about a public disturbance caused by English captain John Scott. Sijmon signs his name to the document and attests to being 35. (However, if he was baptized in February 1628, he would have been 36.)

“Before me, Pelgrom Clocq ... and the undernamed witnesses, appeared Claes Cornelissen, aged 67 years, Symon Janse, aged 35 years, both residents of the village of Amesfoort ... who declare and testify ... at the request of Mr. Adrian Hegeman, Sheriff, residing in the village of Midwout, by and in the presence of Pieter Claesen and Roelof Martens, Schepens of Amesfoort, that it is true and truthful that Captain John Schot, an Englishman, came into their, the deponents' village, on the 12th of January last, with a troop of horse and making a great noise. And first the abovenamed Claes Cornelissen declares that he heard John Schot declare at the time that this place, in The Bay, was a free place because it was bought and was not Company's property; also, that he, John Schot, said that he would return on the first of April, Old Style, and then open and exhibit his commission; forbidding him, the deponent, to pay the Company any Tenths, as the place belonged to the King.” [29]

Then, on the 27th, Sijmon and Claes participate in a convention in Midwout which they instigated, bringing together the Director-General and Council of New Netherland "to lay before the States General and West India Company the distressed state of the country" [30]. The tormenting by the British had accelerated, and the Dutch found themselves being surrounded.

On September 8th, 1664, the Director-General of New Netherland, Pieter Stuyvesant, relinquished the Dutch colony to the British after four British warships with over 1000 men threatened them from New York Bay. At first, the defiant Stuyvesant cursed the English when confronted with a document agreeing to surrender the colony, tearing the paper to shreds and stomping upon it with his wooden leg. However, in his attempt to



muster the Dutch forces against the British, he soon found himself all alone. New Netherland had grown to a population close to 10,000 people by that date, but some 20-40 % of those were non-Dutch already.

Beginning in 1665, Sijmon's attentions turned to acquiring land as evidenced by numerous entries in the Flatlands Town Records. Many lots and parcels of "land and meddow ground" were purchased by Sijmon between 1665 [31] and 1686 [32], thereby establishing farms to suit his likewise burgeoning family. In addition to daughter Geertje (born ca. 1659), Cornelis Sijmons is born about 1665 and Sijmon's only other son, Jan Sijmons, is born in 1676 [33]. Daughter Jannetje Simonse is born about 1668, Metje Sijmonse is born about 1670, and his last child, Maritje Simonse, is born in 1678 [34], but is believed to have died young.

His eldest daughter, Geertje, married Cornelis Pietersz Wyckoff at the Dutch Reformed Church in New Utrecht on October 13, 1678 [35]. On December 11, 1681, Sijmon and Pieterje were present when their first grandchild, Marije, is baptised at the Dutch Reformed Church in Breuckelen [36]. Sijmon is 54 years old at that time. Geertje and Cornelis' second son, Sijmon, named for Sijmon Jansz, is baptised in Amersfoort on November 23, 1683 as witnessed by "Simon Jansz" and "Pietertje Klaas" [37].

On March 23, 1686, Sijmon purchases from Cornelis Willemsz (van Westervelt) "Nos. 30, 31, and 32 of the 15 acre allotments of Gravesend, with the right of commonage on the beach and on Coney Island" [32]. This appears to be Sijmon's last purchase of land. A year later, on March 16th, Sijmon's oldest son Cornelis Sijmons married Aeltje Willems van Kouwenhoven at the Dutch Reformed Church of Flatbush [38]. It would not be until October 20, 1695 before his other son, Jan Sijmons, would marry Lammetje Probasco [39].

One of the more important documents related to Sijmon was the Oath of Allegiance taken September 30th, 1687. This record indicates that Sijmon, listed as "Simon Janse Van Aerts Daalen", had been in this country for 34 years, thus establishing his time of arrival, while his son "Cornelis Simonsen Van Aerts Daalen" was recorded as a native, i.e. born here [40]. This oath

also tabulated other Dutchmen who had been in this country for 34 years, hence potential shipmates of our ancestor, these being: Reynier Aertsen of Flatbush; Ruth Joosten Van Brunt and Jan Van Cleef of New Utrecht; Jan Teunisz Van Dyckhuysen, Willem Davies, and Ruth Bruynsen of Flatlands; and Stoffel Janse Romeyn and Jochem Gulick of Gravesend. By this time, Sijmon had become prosperous and an outstanding member of the religious and civic communities.

Sijmon spent more of his latter years in church pursuits and keeping up with his family in North America -- although not with the family back in Holland. In 1698, Sijmon received a letter from his brother Joost which informed Sijmon of the death of his niece Geertruyt. Geertruyt remembered her uncle Sijmon and his family in her will, and in a letter dated September 9th, Sijmon wrote back to Holland [33] and his brother for the first time in many years, if ever before.

" ... I let you know that I, your brother, and my wife and children are in good health yet, thank God for His grace and we hope to learn the same from you in due time; I wonder you didn't write about our niece; farther I let you know all my children are married and each of them is living in a farmhouse that earns their livelihood; I sold my farm to my eldest son Cornelis, 33 years of age, has got five children, three sons, two daughters; my son Jan, 22 years of age, has got two sons; my daughter Geertje has got eight children; Janneken has got five children; Mettgen has got three children; they are comfortably off but they have to work which God commanded Adam; as for me, your brother, I stopped working since I am 71 years old now, my wife is 58 years of age and you, my brother, are, if I remember rightly, 60 years of age; God be pleased to give us a blessed end ..."

The same year, a census was taken for Kings County, New York and in the town of "Flatlands" or New Amersfoort were listings for "Simon Jantz Van Aersdaelen" and "Cornelis Simontz Van Aersdaelen". Sijmon's house contained 2 men, 3 women, and 1 slave, while Cornelis's house contained 1 man, 1 woman, 6 children, and 1 slave [41]. It can be assumed that the other man in the household was son Jan, then 22 years old.

On May 10, 1700, Sijmon sold the three 15-acre lots he'd bought from Cornelis Willemsz van

Westervelt in 1686 to his eldest son Cornelis Sijmons [42]. Cornelis now had a sizeable farm on which to raise his large family.

Sijmon continued to be physically active at least into his eightieth year. Riker [43] notes:

“Mortgage dated May 11, 1699 to Simon Janse Van Aersdale of Amersfoort on a house in Broad St. given by Joost Leynsen of N.Y. baker & Elizabeth his wife. A memorandum in the margin states that Simon Jansen Van Aersdale of Amersford in Kings Co. Yeoman, personally came on Apl 2, 1707 into the office of the Town Clerk of N.Y. & cancelled the mortgage.”

The last record of Sijmon's good deeds occurred around February 23, 1710. In the Deacon's Book of the Flatlands Dutch Reformed Church is a note tabulating the donations given by twenty contributors. The largest sum, 40 guildens, was donated by Sijmon [44].

Sijmon passed away in late October of that year. His death was recorded in the Deacon's Book as "1710, October 29. Received from Cornelus Van Arsdale for a grave and shroud for Symon Van Arsdale, 24 guildens" [44]. Hoppin further states that Sijmon's grave "was in the churchyard of the Flatlands Dutch Reformed Church, from which the gravestones of the early residents of the town have disappeared". And so our ancestor passed into history at the age of 83.

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16. "De Scheepvaart en handel van de Nederlandse Republiek op Nieuw-Nederland 1609-1675 [The Shipping and Trade from the Dutch Republic to New Netherland, 1609-1675]", Jaap Jacobs, Masters Thesis, University of Leiden, 1989.
17. *The Isle of Texel*, Willem Rabbelier and Cor Snabel, [olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/mm\\_2.shtml](http://olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/mm_2.shtml).
18. Archives, St. Janskerk, account 1654.
19. Gouda Orphan's Court records, v. 27, dated March 10, 1654.
20. Gouda Judicial Records, v. 355, dated April 24, 1654.
21. *The Dutch Republic: Its Rise, Greatness, and Fall 1477-1806*, Jonathan Israel, Oxford University Press, NY, 1995: pp. 624-625 .
22. DTB Amsterdam 1192, p. 127.
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24. *The Register of New Netherland: 1626-1674*, E. B. O'Callaghan, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1995 [originally published 1865]: p. 79.
25. *The Washington Ancestry and Records of the McClain, Johnson, and Forty Other Colonial American Families*, vol. 3, Charles A. Hoppin, privately published, Greenfield, OH, 1932: p. 168.
26. *The Register of New Netherland*, p. 143.
27. *The Records of New Amsterdam 1653-1674*, Berthold Fernow, vol. 4 of 7, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1976 [originally published 1897]: pp. 291 & 295.
28. *The Journal of Jasper Danckaerts* [part of *Original Narratives of Early American History Series*], Barnes & Noble, reprinted 1959: pp.59-62.
29. *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State*

of New York, vol II, Weed & Parsons, Albany, c.1856: p. 482.

30. Hoppin, p. 168.

31. *Flatlands Town Records, Deeds, Miscellaneous 1661-1831*, p. 57.

32. *Gravesend Town Records, Deeds, Leases, No. 5, 1672-1686*, p. 99.

33. Sijmon's Letter of 1698, *Jaarboek van het Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie*, vol. 50, den Haag, 1996: p. 182.

34. *Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush, Kings County, New York, vol. I (1677-1720)*, David W. Voorhees, Holland Society of New York, 1995: p. 384.

35. *Ibid.*, pp. 216-217.

36. *Ibid.*, p. 412.

37. *Ibid.*, p. 426.

38. *Ibid.*, pp. 258-259.

39. *James Riker Papers*, Manuscripts & Archives Division, The New York Public Library, (Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations), Box 17, Vol. I, p. 421. (Riker states that this information was "copied by Mr. Bergen from an old Bible of John A. Voorhees of Flatlands Apr. [18]59" and further includes a transcription of the letter he received from Teunis Bergen which documents the marriage in Dutch.)

40. "The Roll of Those Who Took the Oath of Allegiance in King's County, 1687" in *List of Inhabitants of Colonial New York*, E. B. O'Callaghan, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1979: p. 39 [being an excerpt of O'Callaghan's *The Documentary History of the State of New York*, vol. I, p. 429].

41. "Census of King's County - About 1698" in *List of Inhabitants of Colonial New York*, E. B. O'Callaghan, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1979: p. 178 [being an excerpt of O'Callaghan's *The Documentary History of the State of New York*, vol. III, p. 115].

42. *Gravesend Town Records, Deeds, Leases, No. 5, 1672-1686*, p. 253.

43. *James Riker Papers*, p. 419.

44. Hoppin, p. 171.



JOHN B.  
VAN ARSDALEN, SR.  
OF  
CAYUGA COUNTY, NY

The following article was submitted by **Barbara L. Van Norsdall**, 5050 Tamarus St., Apt. 119, Las Vegas, NV 89119-2036 ([vandenbm8@cox.net](mailto:vandenbm8@cox.net)). She is descended from the subject, John, who is fifth generation.

John B. Van Arsdalen Sr. was born on 27 Aug 1766 in Straban Township, Conewago Colony, York (now Adams) Co., Pennsylvania. He was a son of Isaac Jansz Van Arsdalen and Hannah (Annatie) Pietersen. His father died when John was five years old. His court appointed guardian was Simon Simonsz Van Aersdalen, his father's cousin. Hannah married a second husband, Michael Meyer. They had one known son and named him Isaac in honor of Hannah's first husband.

John married Catherine (Catreina, Catryntie) Vanderbilt, daughter of Jacobus Vanderbilt and Elisabeth Janse, on 11 Mar 1786 in York (now Adams) Co., Pennsylvania. Jean Rand in her book "Some Descendants of Jan Aertsen Vanderbilt", page 75, lists the fact that they married and their two oldest children. Jean Rand lists Catherine's baptism date as 23 Oct 1769, in Straban Township, Conewago Colony, York Co., Pennsylvania. Other researchers list it as 26 May 1765 in Straban Township. There is an entry in the baptism records of the Conewago Colony 1769-1793 (SCHQ, vol. 4, no. 4, p. 270 for "Vanderbilt, Cateirana" with the parent's names unknown. The date is Oct 23, 1769. The next Vanderbilt name is for Elisabet baptised Sept 10, 1775. Elizabeth's parents are listed as Jacobus Vanderbilt and Elisabet Janse. It is possible that the 1769 entry for a Cateirana Vanderbilt was for Catherine the daughter of William Vanderbilt and Mary Van Dyne. William Vanderbilt died about the same time as John's father Isaac. From his will, we know that he had a daughter named Catherine or Cateirana. It is believed that William was a cousin of Jacobus Vanderbilt. William had moved from Readington, Hunterdon Co., NJ to the Conewago Colony, Straban Township, York Co.,

## JOHN B. Sr. (continued)

PA about that time. It is also possible that Catherine Vanderbilt, daughter of Jacobus Vanderbilt, was born in Readington Hunterdon Co., NJ where her immediate older and younger siblings were born.

John and Catherine had four children in York County, Pennsylvania, between 1786 and 1793, Isaac, James, Peter, and John. *{CRV notes that Jacobus and James were interchangeable names for the Dutch in this period. This should conclusively identify Catherine's father.}* The Conewago Colony was dissolving at that point with the Dutch families primarily going in two directions: to Kentucky or to the lakes district of New York (primarily Cayuga County). John and Catherine went to Cayuga County sometime about 1794. They had seven more children.

John and family appear in the 1800 Census of Cayuga County, New York, Aurelius Township, page 682, as John Van Ausvall. He has two sons under 10, two sons 10-16 and himself age 16-45. He has two daughters under 10 and his wife age 16-45. This matches his family. He is living next to James (Jacobus) Vanderbilt, Catherine's father, who has a son under 10 and two sons 16-26 and himself, age 45 or over. He has one daughter 16-26 and his wife who is 45 or older.

Catherine died on 5 Nov 1836 in Niles, Cayuga Co., NY and was buried in West Niles Cemetery. John died on 21 Aug 1841 in Cayuga CO, New York and also was buried in West Niles Cemetery.

*Document on file in Cayuga CO. NY, probate records:* "To the surrogate of the County of Cayuga, the petition of Thomas Van Arsdal of the town of Niles, County of Cayuga and state of New York respectfully herewith that John Van Arsdal late of the town of Niles in the county of Cayuga and State of New York, departed this life on or about the twenty first day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one, that said deceased was at the time of his death an inhabitant of the county of Cayuga that he left a last will and testament which is dated the twenty sixth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one. That in and

by the said will the said deceased appointed Elijah Van Arsdal, William Van Arsdal and your petitioner Executors thereof, that the said deceased left the following his heirs at law and next of kin to wit, James Van Arsdal, Betsey Owen, Sally Selover wife of Jacob Selover and William Van Arsdal all of the town of Niles aforesaid, Elijah Van Arsdal of the town of Moravia, Andrew Van Arsdal of Gorham, Ontario County, Henry Van Arsdal of Mount Morris, Livingston County, Isaac Van Arsdal and John Van Arsdal of the town of Hardin in the State of Ohio. That said will relates to both real and personal estate. That your petitioner is desirous of proving said last will and testament as a will of real estate that the same may be recorded as such in pursuance of the statute in such case made and provided, your petitioner therefore prays the surrogate aforesaid, that the necessary steps may be taken before him for that purpose. Dated 15 Jan 1842.

Thomas Van Arsdall Cayuga County SS Thomas Van Arsdal being duly sworn deposed and says that the facts stated in the above petition by him signed are true to the best of his knowledge and belief. Thomas Van Arsdall

Sworn the 15th day of January 1842 before me. Geo. H. Wood Surrogate, Surrogate Court Cayuga Co, N.Y.

In the matter of the proof and probate of the last will and testament of John Van Arsdal Decd., We the undersigned heirs at law and next of kin to John Van Arsdal late of the town of Niles in the County of Cayuga deceased do hereby waive the service of the citation required by law to attend the proof and probate of the last will and testament of said deceased and do consent that the same may be proved before the Surrogate of Cayuga County at any time when the same shall be presented for that purpose.

Witness our hand 21st day of Oct A.D. 1841.

In the presence of witnesses Henry Van Arsdall, Benjamin Winne, Andrew Van Arsdall; Fihis Snider, Elizabeth Owens, Henry L. Bouver, I. I. Van Arsdall, Walter Simonson, John Van Arsdall, Jun., Harvey Hammond, Rebecca Van Arsdall, George Hammond, Jacob Selover, Hannah P. (her x mark) Van Arsdall, James (his x mark) Van Arsdall.

At a Surrogate Court held at the Surrogates office in the village of Auburn in and for the County of Cayuga on the Fifteenth day of January A. D. 1842. Present George H. Wood Surrogate.”

An instrument in writing purporting to be the last will and testament of John Van Arsdall late of the town of Niles in said county deceased was offered for proof and probate as a will of real and personal estate pursuant to the statute. On filing the consent of the heirs at law and next of kin to said deceased waiving the service of a citation in this matter and consenting that said will may be proved at any time, this matter was now brought on to be heard and all the witnesses to said will were produced in open court and testified as follows:

“In the matter of the proof and probate of the last will and testament of John Van Arsdall Decd. Cayuga County SS George H. Brinkerhoff of Niles in said county being duly sworn deposed and says I was well acquainted with John Van Arsdall late of Niles aforesaid deceased. I was present when a certain instrument in writing now here shown to me dated the twenty sixth day of May A.D. 1841 purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased was executed, I saw the deceased execute said instrument by signing his name thereto, I heard him publish and declare the same to be his last will and testament. The deceased requested me to become a subscribing witness to the execution thereof. I did so and signed my name thereto as such witness in his presence. The said deceased was in my opinion at the time of execution of said instrument of a sound and disposing mind and memory and in all respects competent to make and publish a last will and testament and to devise real estate, he was of full age and under no restraint that I know of. Geo. H. Brinkerhoff” (There were identical statements made by Isaac P. Vannosdall and Thomas Van Arsdall)

*The last will and testament of John Van Arsdal of Niles, County of Cayuga and state of New York:* “I John Van Arsdal considering the uncertainty of this mortal life and being of sound mind and memory blessed by Almighty God for the same do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say, I will and ordain that the executors of this my last will and testament whom I shall hereafter name and appoint for and towards the performance of my said testament shall with all convenient speed after

my decease bargain sell and alien in fee simple all those my lands situate lying and being in Niles aforesaid known as a part of lot number twenty five in the original town of Sempronius County aforesaid containing within the boundries described in my deeds about one hundred and ten acres of land which by a reference to my said deeds will mine fully appear. For the doing executing and purport finishing whereof I do by these present give to my said executors and their executor or executors full power and authority to grant alien bargain sell convey and assure all the above named lands to any person or persons and their heirs forever in fee simple by all and every such lawful ways and means in the law as to my said executors or their executor or executors or to his or their counsel learned in the law shall see fit and necessary. (2) And I do hereby name and appoint my trusty and beloved sons Elijah Thomas and William to be the executors of this my last will and testament. (3) Out of the sale of my real estate as soon as my executors shall have received a suffiecient sum of the purchase money in their hands, I will they shall pay the three following named legacies before any other bequests (viz) I give and bequeath to my daughter Betsey Owen the sum of two hundred dollars and to my daughter Sally Selover the sum of two hundred dollars and also to my grand daughter Hannah Van Arsdal the sum of two hundred dollars to be paid them respectively. (4) The remainder of the purchase monies arising from the sale of my said real estate after the three foregoing sums shall have been paid I will and do hereby order and direct that my said executors shall divide equal that is share and share alike to my nine sons (that is) Isaac, James, Peter, John, Andrew, Henry, Elijah, Thomas, and William or their heirs. (5) I give and bequeath to my said son William the following described personal property (viz) one sorrel mare and one bay mare and the best set of harness belonging to me, the lumber wagon, and he my said son shall make choice of two cows from among my stock of cattle, one bed and the necessary bed clothes for the same. (6) The remainder of my personal property including my household furniture my said executors shall sell, and collect in whatever money may be owing to me and add to the monies arising from the sale of my personal estate, and divide share and share alike among my nine sons herein before named, in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-sixth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one. John Van Arsdal”

## JOHN B. Sr. (continued)

John and Catherine had the following children:

1. Isaac Van Aarsdale was born on 11 Nov 1786 in Conewago, York Co., Pennsylvania and was christened on 25 Mar 1787 in Conewago Dutch Reformed Church. He was named for his paternal grandfather. He died in Hardin Co., OH. Isaac married Roxena (Roxanna) Barnes about 1810. Roxena was born in 1791 in Vermont.

2. James (Jacobus) Van Arsdale was born on 13 Mar 1789 in Conewago, York Co., Pennsylvania and was christened on 6 Dec 1789 in Conewago, York (now Adams Co.), PA. He was named after his maternal grandfather. He died on 30 Nov 1872 in Niles, Cayuga Co., New York. James married (1) Mary Ann "Anna" Snider, daughter of John Snider and Mary Sarah Daugherty. Mary was born on 9 Jan 1795 in Cayuga Co., NY. She died on 8 Dec 1815 in NY. James also married (2) Catherine (Katie) Robinson. Catherine was born on 25 Sep 1798 in Niles, Cayuga Co., New York. She died on 7 Nov 1862.

3. Peter Van Arsdale was born on 17 Feb 1791 in Conewago, York Co., Pennsylvania and was christened on 10 Apr 1791 in Conewago, York Co., PA. He was named for his paternal great grandfather, Peter Pietersen. He died on 14 Dec 1834 in Auburn Twp, Richland (later Crawford) Co., OH and was buried in Hanna Cemetery. Peter married Rebecca "Beccy" Snider, daughter of John Snider and Mary Sarah Daugherty, on 12 Oct 1814/1815 in Cayuga Co., NY. Rebecca was born on 15 Jun 1797 in Cayuga Co., NY. She died on 24 Aug 1876.

4. John B. Van Orsdall, Jr. was born on 25 May 1793 in Conewago, York Co., Pennsylvania. He died on 14 May 1873 in Jackson Township, Wyandot Co., Ohio. He was named for his father. Appears as John Van Norsdall in the 1830 census index of Livingston Co., NY, Mt. Morris Township and on a Bureau of Land Management record, document number 10458, for land in Wyandot County, Ohio. John married Nancy Snider, daughter of Jacob Snider and Helenah "Lenah" Daugherty, on 16 Dec 1819 in Cayuga

Co., New York. Nancy was born on 9 May 1798 in Sempronius Twp, Cayuga Co., New York. She died on 16 Feb 1878 in Jackson Twp, Wyandot Co., Ohio. Nancy was a first cousin to Rebecca and to Mary Ann who married John, Jr. brothers Peter and James.

5. Elizabeth "Betsey" Van Arsdale was born on 14 Dec 1795. It is assumed that she was born in Cayuga Co., NY. She was named for her maternal grandmother. She died on 28 Jun 1842 in Niles, Cayuga Co., NY. Elizabeth married John Owens. John was born about 1791 in Niles, Cayuga Co., NY.

6. Sarah Van Arsdale was born on 17 Apr 1798 in Cayuga Co., NY. She died on 31 Mar 1872 in Niles, NY. Sarah married Jacob Selover.

7. Andrew Van Arsdale was born on 27 Jan 1801 in Cayuga Co., New York. He died on 25 Jul 1848 in Mifflin Twp, Wyandot Co., OH and was buried in York St. Cemetery. Andrew married Catherine "Catie" Van Arsdale in Cayuga Co., NY. Catherine's parents are not known. Catherine was born on 3 Apr 1801 in NY. She died on 6 Feb 1879 in Mifflin Twp, Wyandot Co., OH and was buried in York St. Cemetery.

8. Henry Van Arsdale was born on 31 May 1803 in Cayuga Co., New York. Henry married Anna Selover in 1833 in Cayuga Co., NY. Anna was born in 1813.

9. Elijah Van Arsdale was born on 2 Jun 1806 in Cayuga Co., New York. He died on 26 Sep 1878 in Wyandot Co., OH from Typhoid Fever and was buried in York St. Cemetery. Elijah married Elizabeth Vanderbilt in 1835 in Cayuga Co., New York. Elizabeth was born in Jul 1809 in NY. She died on 2 Jan 1896 in Jackson Twp., Wyandot Co., OH and was buried in York St. Cemetery. Rush Fox McCleary in his 1993 book "My Family History, McCleary, Snider, Fox, Brown" states that Elijah's daughters, Margaret Jane and Catherine attended elementary school in Moravia, New York with the son of an itinerant peddler. The son many years later was John D. Rockefeller. When they were grown and living in Ohio, the sisters were part of committee to raise money for a library. They wrote to Mr. Rockefeller and he wrote back with a contribution of \$500.

10. Thomas Van Arsdale was born on 7 Nov 1808 in Cayuga Co., NY. He died on 18 Feb 1893 in Moravia, Cayuga Co., NY and was buried in Indian Mound Cemetery, Moravia, NY. Thomas married Amanda Forbush in 1848 in Cayuga Co., NY. Amanda was born in 1818. She died in 1900 in Moravia, Cayuga Co., NY and was buried in Indian Mound Cemetery, Moravia, NY.

11. William Perry Van Arsdale was born on 9 Nov 1814 in Cayuga Co., New York. He died in 1846 in Niles, Cayuga Co., New York. ◇

**JOHN B.  
VAN ARSDALEN, JR.  
OF  
WYANDOT COUNTY, OH**

The following article was also submitted by **Barbara L. Van Norsdall**, 5050 Tamarus St., Apt. 119, Las Vegas, NV 89119-2036 ([vandenbm8@cox.net](mailto:vandenbm8@cox.net)). She is descended from the subject, John, who is sixth generation.

**J**ohn B. Van Orsdall Jr. was born on 25 May 1793 in the Conewago colony, York (now Adams) Co., Pennsylvania. He was a son of John B. Van Arsdalen, Sr. and Catherine Vanderbilt. When he was about a year old the Conewago Colony was breaking down and the majority of Dutch citizens were going either to Kentucky/(West) Virginia or to Cayuga County, New York. John and Catherine decided to move to New York. They had four children at that time and the oldest would have been eight years of age.

John B. Van Orsdall, Jr. married Nancy Snider, daughter of Jacob Snider and Helenah "Lenah" Daugherty, on 16 Dec 1819 in Cayuga Co., New York. He was 26 and Nancy was 21. Nancy was born on 9 May 1798 in Sempronius Township, Cayuga Co., New York. Nancy was a first cousin to Rebecca Snider, who married John's brother Peter Van Orsdall, and Mary Ann who married another brother, James Van Orsdall.

John and Nancy appear on the 1820 US Census for Cayuga County, New York, p. 173, as John Van Orsdall, Jun. There are no children. At some time, John and Nancy moved to Mt. Morris Township in Livingston Co. in western New York State. They were there for the 1830 federal census, page 148. John appears as John Van Norsdall. There are also a James Van Norsdall, Abraham Vannorsdall, and Jacob Vannorsdall listed in the census. His father's will lists his son Henry as living in Mt. Morris but lists his son James as living in Cayuga County. It is possible that the James living in Mt. Morris was the brother of John Jr. and had moved back to Cayuga County by 1842. Abraham and Jacob were likely cousins.

John, Nancy and the children moved to Ohio in 1834. They first settled in Marion County, and then moved to Jackson Township in Hardin County. They appear in the 1840 US Census, page 82, as John Vanesdol with seven children. Jackson Township later became part of Wyandot County. John acquired two pieces of land in Wyandot County, Ohio from the Bureau of Land Management. The first 80 acres were acquired while living in New York. *John Vannorsdall Junior of Livingston County, New York ... on the Thirtieth day of December 1835. Land Office - Bucyrus, Document Number 10458, Title Authority - Cash Entry Sale, Description - W 1/2 NE, Section 36, Township 3 South, Range 12 East.* The second parcel, 40 acres, was acquired while living in Ohio. *John Vanorsdall Junior of Marion County, Ohio ... the Sixth day of April 1836.* (The History of Wyandotte Co, Ohio, 1834, pages 832 through 850, Chapter V, Jackson Twp.) John Van Orsdall is said to have come to the area in 1834 (*ibid.*, p. 833).

John voted in the October election of 1845. From the Wyandot Tracers, May/June 1991, "First Warrant Book of Wyandot, Ohio, 1845-1847" - 15 Oct 1845, John Vannorsdoll Return Jackson Twp. Oct Election \$2.50.

The following is from "My Family History, McCleary, Snider, Fox, Brown" by Rush Fox McCleary, 1993. "In its native state Wyandot County was covered with dense wild grass, several feet tall in some parts, and with beautiful forest in other parts. There was an abundance of hardwood trees including oak, ash, elm, hickory, walnut, beech, sassafras, and sycamore. Saw mills

## JOHN B. JR. (continued)

were set up at many locations and they provided the lumber needed to build the barns, houses, sheds, gates, churches, schools, stores and other buildings needed by our hardy pioneers."

The Wyandot County, Ohio Record of Deaths Vol I lists the deaths of John and Nancy. Page 16 records that John B. Van Orsdall died on 14 May 1873 in Jackson Township, Wyandot Co., Ohio. He was 80. Page 34 records that Nancy Snider Van Orsdall died on 16 Feb 1878 in Jackson Township, Wyandot Co., Ohio. She was 80. There were so many people from New York in Jackson Township of Wyandot County that the citizens named the main street York Street and the cemetery was the York Street Cemetery.

Their first child of record was born in 1823, four years after they married. It is likely that they had a child in those four years who died. John and Nancy had the following children:

1. Jacob S. Van Orsdall was born on 1 Oct 1823 in Cayuga Co., New York. He died on 1 Sep 1835 in Jackson Twp, Wyandot Co., Ohio and was buried in York St. Cemetery.

2. Phillip Van Orsdall was born in 1825 in Cayuga Co., New York. Phillip married Catherine Van Orsdall, daughter of Peter Van Arsdale and Rebecca "Becky" Snider, on 1 Dec 1846 in Crawford, OH. Catherine was born on 7 Nov 1827 in OH. She died on 12 Oct 1865. Phillip, Catherine and daughter Harriet moved to Iowa in the late 1850s. They appear in the 1860 US Census in Iowa.

3. Mary Jane Van Orsdall was born on 12 Feb 1827 in Cayuga Co., New York. She died in May 1909. Mary married (1) Sylvester Smith Parsell, son of Peter Parsell and Martha Selover, on 28 Dec 1848 in Wyandot Co., OH. Sylvester was born in 1828. Mary also married (2) John Wright Snider, son of Daniel Snider and Anna "Annie" Dean. John was born on 2 Sep 1825 in Cayuga Co., NY. He died on 23 Sep 1914 in Columbus, Cherokee Co., Kansas.

4. Simon Van Orsdall was born in 1829 in

Cayuga Co., New York. Simon married (1) Roxina (Roxanna) Eggleston in Wyandot Co., Ohio. Roxina was born in 1836 in OH. She died before 1880. Simon also married (2) Mary Baker. Mary was born in 1841.

5. Elijah Van Orsdall was born in 1830 in Cayuga Co., New York. He died on 26 Sep 1878 in Cherokee Co., KS. Elijah married Eliza Hardy. Eliza was born in 1836 in Scotland. She died on 2 Jan 1896.

6. Isaac I. "Ike" Van Norsdall was born on 2 Feb 1832 in Cayuga Co., New York. He died on 16 Jul 1885 in Cherokee Co., Kansas from a farming accident. Isaac married Jane Bolton Stott June 30, 1858 in Fredericksburg, Chickasaw County, Iowa. They were the 84th couple married after the county was founded. Jane was born on 1 May 1836 in Stockport, Columbia Co., New York. She died on 24 Jan 1911 in Columbus, Cherokee County, Kansas. In the filing of probate records, Jane and the children all signed their last name as Van Norsdall.

7. Sarah Catherine Van Orsdall was born in Feb 1835 in Wyandot Co., Ohio. She died in Oct 1908 in Roosevelt, Klickitat Co., Washington and was buried in Chapman (Sundale) Cemetery. Sarah married William David Kelley on 14 Aug 1856 in Jackson Twp, Wyandot Co., Ohio. William was born in May 1828 in Westmoreland Co., PA. He died on 28 Nov 1909 in Mountain View, Kiowa Co., OK.

8. Peter Van Orsdall was born on 23 Apr 1837 in Jackson Twp, Wyandot Co., Ohio. He died on 25 Feb 1839 in Jackson Twp, Wyandot Co., Ohio and was buried in York St. Cemetery.

9. Elizabeth Ellen Van Orsdall was born in 1839 in Jackson Twp, Wyandot Co., Ohio. Elizabeth married (1) Isaac A. Van Orsdall, son of Andrew Van Arsdale and Catherine "Catie" Van Arsdale. Isaac was born in 1837. He died before 1865. Elizabeth also married (2) James A. Baker on 30 Jan 1865. James was born in 1829 in VA. John B. Jr. and Nancy were living with daughter Elizabeth Ellen Van Orsdall and her second husband James Baker in 1870 in Wyandot Ohio.

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# The Van

# Mythos

CRV has recently come into possession of a book and a number of research papers which have shed new light on some of the famous family traditions alternately embraced and cast aside. Consequently, CRV has researched, to the best of his ability, the background and data (supportive or otherwise) behind these long-held beliefs. It is felt that, although incomplete, this effort should be preserved and disseminated, and what better vehicle than this, the last issue of (this incarnation of) *The Vanguard*.

## 1. James Riker, Jr.

James Riker, Jr. was born on May 11, 1822 to James Riker, Sr. and Elizabeth Van Arsdale. Elizabeth was the eldest daughter (born April 10, 1791) of Capt. John Van Arsdale (1/5/1756 - 8/14/1836) and Mary Crawford [*The Annals of Newtown*, D. Fanshaw, Nassau, NY, 1852 (re-printed Hunterdon House, Lambertville, NJ, 1982): p. 307]. Consequently, Riker's "Evacuation Day - 1783" chronicled the life of his maternal grandfather, whom he may have known only briefly. In his twenties, Riker studied to become a Presbyterian minister, and in the process began studying history and genealogy. He routinely interviewed, corresponded, and researched in an effort to document the history of his various family branches. He befriended a native Hollander from whom he learned the Dutch language. By 1848, however, Riker moved to Harlem with his father and eventually found work as a teacher. In 1851, not even thirty years of age, he published a pamphlet outlining the history of the Riker family in America. The following year, he published his acclaimed "The Annals of Newtown", a remarkable history of the area "including the several islands known as Riker's, Berrien's, Luyster's, Yonker's Island, and the two Brothers, cover[ing] an area of twenty-six and a quarter square miles" [*Annals*, preface p. 1] which is a highly valuable resource to this day. Then a significant stretch of his life appears to have been devoted to his own family and laborious research before he resumed publication. In 1881, *Harlem (City of New York): Its Origin and Early Annals* was published,

followed two years later by "Evacuation Day" (*Evacuation Day 1783, Its Many Stirring Events: With Recollections of Capt. John Van Arsdale*, privately published, New York, 1883). Unfortunately, financial problems plagued Riker and he was compelled to auction off the major part of his library. In October 1885 he took out an ad in the New York Genealogical & Biographical Record (NYBGR, vol. 16, no. 4, p. 185) stating:

"The undersigned would respectfully announce that, having given many years to investigating the history of our early colonists, chiefly those who settled within the States of New York and New Jersey, he has accumulated a mass of information regarding the heads of families, especially those of Dutch and Huguenot extraction, which he will furnish to such as may desire it; charges moderate. And as but few persons are now found among us who can translate the old records which remain in the Holland tongue, he is prepared to make any such translation on being applied to.

JAMES RIKER, Historian"

Less than four years later, he died of "bronchial trouble" on July 3, 1889. A memorial notice was written in the October 1889 NYGBR (vol. 20, #4, pp. 175-176) which said:

"Mr. Riker's wonderful accuracy in these details deserves the highest praise. His conscientious carefulness can be partly appreciated by the fact that nearly a year and a half were consumed in passing the "History of Harlem" through the presses.

"... it seems faint praise, however, to claim that his works were authorities on the early history of New Amsterdam and its first settlers, and as compendiums of family genealogies, are invaluable works of reference."

His papers, a vast collection of old newspaper clippings, research notes, original documents, and working drafts of his books, have been acquired by the New York Public Library.

## 2. Riker's "Ancient Helvetian" Claim

CRV has acquired the bulk of Riker's research on the Van Arsdale family from the New York Public Library. Ostensibly, these records were sought in an effort to locate the basis of Riker's claim (*Evacuation Day 1783*; p. 24) that the Van Arsdales were "an ancient Helvetian family". The Helvetii were an ancient Celtic people who occupied northwestern Switzerland toward the end of the Roman Empire. Their early history, it

seems, is shrouded in obscurity. Between the Helvetii and the Romans, many of the geographical features of Switzerland were named back in antiquity.

Riker's credentials are sturdy. It would be easy to doubt his thoroughness, however, on this last publication given the toll of his illness and imposing financial trouble. A review of hundreds of pages of his papers relating to the Van Arsdales has turned up only the following as the grounds for Riker's claim of our Swiss descent.

From a set of papers identified as "Chapter 11" for an unknown book, Riker embarks on a biographical history of his great-grandfather, Christoffel Jansz van Aersdalen (c.1696-1772). The biography itself appears valid, but at length Riker waxes to a fanciful tale-telling by Stoffel before a hearty fire about which he and his grandchildren are seated. **For the first time**, Riker's notes may now be found in print, as:

"... fancy easily depicts the happy group gathered about the genial hearth, after the toils of the day - the crackling embers in the huge Dutch fireplace casting a mellow light around the tidy apartment, with its sanded floor and implastered white-washed timbers overhead, and extracting sportive rays from the glossy Delft ware and shining pewter platters that adorned the old fashioned dresser - listening with rapt attention to parental counsels or the more engrossing family legends. For Stoffel van Arsdalen could tell many a tale of adventure that we would now delight to listen to ... For Stoffel was sprung from a good and noted Holland stock; his father Jan and his grandfather Simon were persons of intelligence and character. But let Stoffel tell the story: "Our family name", we seem to hear him say, as he adjusts his pipe in his mouth, and a glow of honest Dutch pride lights up his features, "has come down from a gallant **ridder** or knight of the chivalry, whose domains lay in the picturesque dales or valleys of the **Aar**, whence he took his name Jan van Arsdalen, or of the **Aar's dales**. This puissant knight lived in an age very remote, for we read in the old chronicles that in 1211 he built him a castle, which having sheltered many generations of his race, and braved many centuries of mortal chance, came in modern days to be used as the county house of the bailiwick of Arsdale, and the arms of the old race emblematic of their martial deeds and knightly honors,

*adopted as the public arms of the bailiwick. Some of Ridder Jan's descendants having settled in Holland <sup>the Netherlands</sup>, here the family, after enjoying ~~much~~ distinction, suffered severely during the Spanish wars for their firm adherence to our reformed religion ..."*

It is interesting that Riker chose to strike *Holland* and replace it with *the Netherlands*; this hints that he could have meant the region which includes modern-day Belgium. An earlier draft of the same passage did not employ Stoffel as storyteller but introduced the legend in a more straightforward, but highly edited, manner.

*"We are <sup>It is stated</sup>, indeed, informed in <sup>old</sup> books of heraldry that the family <sup>of the Van Arsdales</sup> was one of remote antiquity in Holland <sup>that</sup> country and descended from Jan Van Arsdalen, a lordly knight who built a castle in the year 1210, & gave name to a bailiwick where they <sup>had</sup> enjoyed the privileges of free birth & a place <sup>were awarded</sup> among among the country old nobility, being descended from a feudal <sup>ridder or</sup> knight who in the year 1211, built <sup>of the 13th century</sup> who built a castle on his domain ~~t~~atted Arsdale, & from it took <sup>thence</sup> his name Jan Van Arsdale. That <sup>some of</sup> his descendants {illegible} became distinguished in ~~Dordrecht~~, Ghent & Antwerp, holding important public positions <sup>trusts</sup>, that but suffered <sup>that the family were yet of {illegible} in</sup> Holland, ~~though they had suffered~~ greatly in the civil wars of the sixteenth century the family suffered greatly, because of their adherence to the principles of the Reformation ..."*

At which point the very heavily edited text briefly discusses the passing of the arms to the bailiwick of Arsdale, followed by:

*"And these facts are soberly set forth in an old & voluminous treatise upon European families, & bearing every appearance of authenticity ~~Duly~~ chronicled was all this & much more in the old books of <sup>Belgic</sup> heraldry, {illegible} tales of their fatherdom; but if we {illegible} day grown more cautious, are prone Yet we are always disposed to receive <sup>details of</sup> such ancient <sup>remote</sup> matters <sup>times</sup> with due caution some misgivings; none ~~need~~ be cherished ~~as to~~ while we feel full confidence in the American ~~portion of the Van Arsdale history~~, of the family based derived as it is, in great part ~~from upon contemporaneous records~~ <sup>still existing</sup> & of ~~unquestioned~~ authority authenticity which our own eyes have inspected."*

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So we see from this tortuous early draft that no mention is made of Helvetian roots, but that we are of “Belgic heraldry”. Riker alludes to medieval records of the family along what is now the common border between the Netherlands and Belgium into the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Neither of these entries is dated, so we cannot assess the likelihood that, in the interim, the final version was based on newly discovered information. It is entirely likely that Riker, in an attempt to further capture the reader’s imagination, chose to introduce a “folk-tale” storytelling approach with an embellished early history.

### **3. The Family Coat-of-Arms**

Riker’s “Annals of Newtown” contains an extensive genealogical section devoted to families prominent in the area. The book concentrates on 27 families and Riker, then in his twenties, appears to have gone to great lengths to locate coats-of-arms for each family. (CRV, however, expresses no opinion as to the validity of those coats-of-arms.) Among his notes, we find that he actually assembled 44 coats-of-arms, one of which he attributed to the “Van Arsdale” family. Although *not* printed in “Newtown”, Riker published the coat-of-arms in “Evacuation Day”.

Per the late J. Edward Van Arsdale in *The Van Newsletter*, Feb. 1987, p. 3: “In April 1956, J. A Backstrom, Director of the International Heraldic Institute, Ltd., Washington, D.C., in response to a request from Mr. C. G. Gunter of the New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, New Mexico described the Van Arsdale Coat-of-Arms as follows: Arms: Quarterly, ermine and guels. Crest: A hat quarterly ermine and guels surmounted by a plume. No motto.” {CRV adds that gules is the heraldic term for the color red; ermine is the heraldic term for the odd tree- or arrow-shaped symbol representing tails on the white fur of the ermine.}

Riker extensively researched heraldry and knighthood, having translated a Dutch treatise (“*D’oude Chronyke ende Historien van Holland*”, W. van Gouthoeven, Dordrecht, 1620) into English for publication in the NYGBR (“*Of the Knighthood and Nobility in Holland*”, vol. XV, no. 2, 1884: pp 69-71). The Van Arsdale(n) name is *not* to be found therein; however, the list is specifically for

the nobility of the two provinces of North and South Holland.

From “*The Nebraska and Midwest Genealogical Record*” (vol. III, no. 1, 1925: p. 171), a reference to the origins of the coat-of-arms is discussed. “The reference to the coat-of-arms of the ancient family is that which Ricker (sic) states appeared in a bookplate of 1703. In the usual Holland work containing coats-of-arms it does not appear. However, it is stated that, some years ago, the wife of ex-Governor Bedle brought from Holland a copy, and a reproduction of it has been made by a Plainsfield artist for the Van Arsdale family.”

This article is **very** misleading; the artist would not have been from Plainsfield but rather Plainfield, located not in Nebraska, or even in the Midwest, but in New Jersey. Ex-Governor Bedle was Joseph D. Bedle, Governor of New Jersey from 1875 to 1878. His wife was Althea F. Randolph, the eldest daughter of Bennington F. Randolph, a prominent lawyer in Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ. (Their surname actually appears to have been Fitz Randolph.) No evidence has been uncovered that, in her ancestry, or that of her husband (based on internet genealogies ... *caveat emptor*), there was any Van Arsdale blood. The closest relationship seems to be that Althea’s paternal grandfather was a second cousin to Ducretia Manning, who married a George Van Arsdale.

Given this tenuous relationship, we must wonder why Mrs. Bedle, if she made a trip to Holland in the late 1800s, went out of her way to obtain a copy of the coat-of-arms for a family which was not in her own lines. Of course, she could have happened upon it inadvertently; serendipity has always been the genealogist’s friend. It is also possible that, given the prevalence of the surname in New Jersey, she sought out the seal for an acquaintance. But for whatever reason, the coat-of-arms was found not in an heraldic compendium, but as a bookplate, signifying the ownership of the book - but little else.

From the NMGR entry, it would appear that the coat-of-arms was unknown in this country until Mrs. Bedle returned with it. As “Annals” contained information about the Van Arsdales but did not include a coat-of-arms, we may assume that Riker did not have a copy of it by 1851, whereas he did by 1883 when “Evacuation Day” was

printed. The coat-of-arms remains unauthenticated.

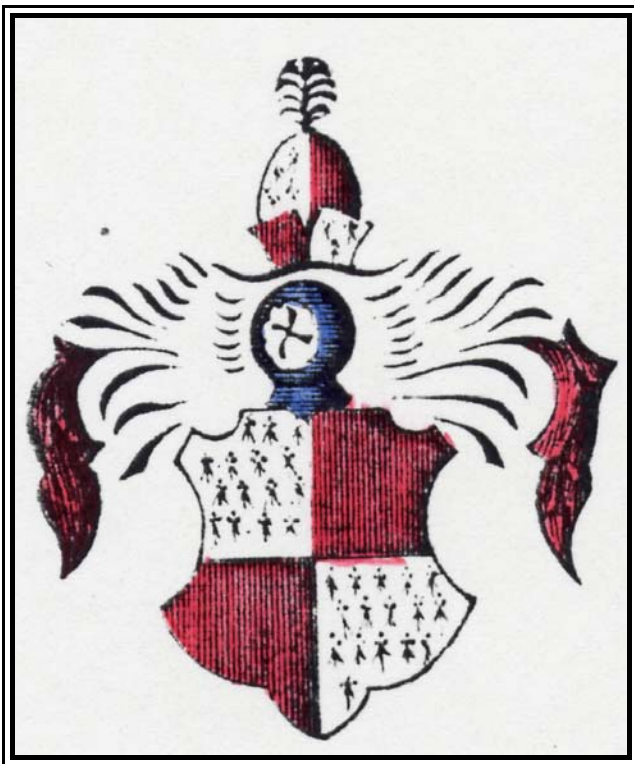
CRV has recently come into the possession (courtesy of James Vannorsdall, 8146 Upper Jamestown Road, Jeffersonville, OH 43128) of an undated letter by Mrs. Adaline Gossard Finney. (A review of the contents suggests the letter to be from around 1935.) Mrs. Finney applied for membership in the DAR based on the Revolutionary War “papers of association” signed by her ancestor Garret Van Arsdalen (1725-c.1781). In this letter, she stated: “The coat-of-arms of the Knight of Arsdale is very beautiful. I found a copy of a book plate in the N. Y. Library & had an artist in Washington D.C. do it all by hand & in colors. The colors are crimson, black, & white & silver & gold.” She further added that the coat-of-arms “contains a shield helmet and crest surmounted by a bunch of plumes.” She then clarified her source as the New York Public Library, but did not cite a particular book. Again, however, the reference is to a *bookplate*. Additionally, as her source came from the NYPL, the repository of Riker’s papers and research, could she have been looking through one of

Riker’s own books? If so, we have no independent evidence of the coat-of-arms’ existence.

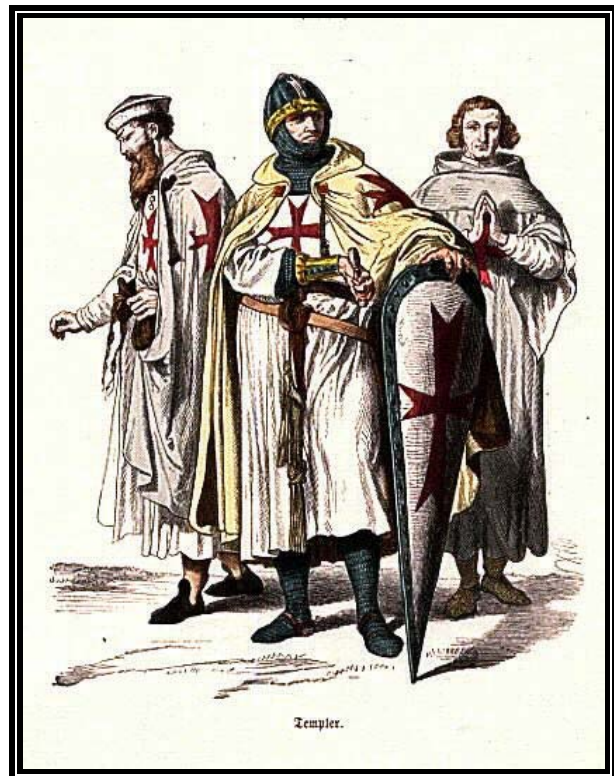
As an additional check, CRV contacted the Bornholm Tourist Board to inquire about the civic coat-of-arms of the town of Arsdale. Riker’s contention is that the Van Arsdale seal is now that of the bailiwick, or hamlet, of Arsdale. The Tourist Board replied that Arsdale did not have an official seal, but their sign was of a windmill.

#### 4. A Most Curious Link

While at Barnes & Noble one day looking for a dinosaur book for my six-year-old, I veered over to the history section (as I often do) to see if any new titles dealing with the Dutch Golden Age had been published. First I had to skim over the inordinate number of books on the Freemasons, Secret Societies, and Knights Templar. In the process, one book was prominent; in fact, it had been displayed by its front cover, not the spine. The book was entitled “The Templars’ Secret Island” (Erling Haagensen and Henry Lincoln, Barnes & Noble Books, New York, 2002) and the cover showed a map of the island. It looked



The Purported Van Arsdale(n) Coat-of-Arms, taken from p. 307 of Riker's *Evacuation Day 1783*.



Thirteenth Century Knights Templar

familiar, so I picked it up; lo and behold, the island was Bornholm.

So I bought two books that day. Haagensen's book, as I delved into it, hit me like the proverbial ton of bricks. I had an overpowering sensation that I had stumbled upon a great discovery, that perhaps I was on to the Van Arsdale "Holy Grail". As I read and researched, the delirium deepened.

The premise of Haagensen's book was to present the analysis of the location and dimensions of Bornholm's curious round churches in the context that they had mystical significance to and were the architectural product of the Knights Templar. The Knights Templar originally was a military order of monks who girded themselves for battle in the name of Christianity, warring against infidels in the legendary Crusades. The Templars were founded around 1118 AD and originally consisted of nine knights. With time, their ranks swelled and they were pressed into service across Europe and, of course, on the roads to Jerusalem, safeguarding pilgrims to the Holy City. In the Baltic Sea, the Crusades made a detour to Estonia, where the "heathens" faced the Christian Danes and their supposedly recruited Knights Templar in numerous bloody battles in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. The Estonian Crusades raged for about 35 years, finally ending in 1219, not long after the Templars established an order at Riga. The Templars, originally knighted by archbishops, came under the purview of the Pope a few decades after their formation. The question still remains, 'though - why would a small, obscure island have any consequence in all this?

Bornholm was not an inconsequential island. In fact, it appears to have been one of history's most important islands from the standpoint of serving as a springboard. The island has been inhabited for over 10,000 years, possibly much longer, but the last Ice Age would have eradicated any earlier historical finds. It was originally, or at least by the fifth century, known as "Burgunderland" or "Burgunderholm". In fact, in an historical treatise written around 417 AD, it was acknowledged that inhabitants of Burgunderholm migrated to the continent and eventually settled along the Rhine River in east central France, thereby giving rise to the nascent province of Burgundy (*The New Encyclopedia Britannica*, Micropedia, vol. 2, 2002: p. 648). In the early 400s, as they expanded toward what is now Belgium, they were con-

fronted by the Roman Legion. The ensuing battle claimed, it is reported, some 20,000 Burgundians as well as their King at the hands of the Roman general Aetius. His victories against the Burgundians at Worms have been immortalized in the German epic poem *Nibelungenlied*. In 443, Aetius relocated the Burgundians to the western half of Switzerland between Geneva and Basel, in an area then known as *Helvetia* (<http://www.fsmitha.com/h1/ch.s6.htm>; see account also at <http://xenohistorian.faithweb.com/europe/eu05p.html>).

So from this study we have at least two intriguing points. One, Bornholm may have been a stronghold for the Knights Templar around 1200 AD, and two, natives of Bornholm founded Burgundy and, ultimately, part of Helvetia around 400 AD.

To this mix we must add the following. In 1985 and 1986, archaeologists on Bornholm uncovered a trove of some 3000 "guldgubber" or gold tags, similar in shape to dog tags, but only about an inch long. Their purpose is unknown. Stamped out of gold, a majority of these tags feature "long-haired kings" and have been dated to around 400-600 AD. CRV found Haagensen's email address and asked him a few questions about the guldgubber, the book and its findings. Haagensen stated that these guldgubber were unearthed at a site called Sorte Muld, an old settlement Haagensen claims was land owned by the King of Bornholm (in the ancient days when Bornholm had its own king), who likely figured into the early Burgundian nobility. Sorte Muld, he continued, was "likely to be connected" to "one of the oldest harbours at Bornholm" which was nearby, that being *Arsdale*. He then added that, if the Van Arsdals came from Arsdale, "It is very likely your family origin is close connected to the royal family - probably being in the King's service or 'hird', that is defenders for the King and thus belonged to the nobility." He also noted that the town name was first documented in 1410 as Osdæl. "The first Års or Ors, as it probably was, derive from the word *or* (ora in Swedish) meaning a stoned flat field with small bushes or simply a flat beach" but that "there might be a connection to the old Nordic verb *wæria* (waeria) meaning to defend (ward off)." Hence, defenders of the valley (of the King).

As head-spinning as all of this is, we have not substantiated anything with respect to the van Aersdalen origins.

## 5. Self-Fulfilling Prophecy?

Have we unearthed anything new here, or even rediscovered lost knowledge? Although it is possible that these seemingly disparate pieces came together at a fortuitous time, and make for a compelling case which could tie together the die-hard myths at the foundation of our family, another scenario exists. This scenario is more ominous and potentially ruinous to the credibility of the Van Arsdale researchers.

Envision a Van researcher of, say, the 1870s. He or she is educated, proficient at in-depth investigative research, perhaps a resident of New Jersey or New York close to old records and personally steeped in old Dutch traditions and legends. He/she has located the small fishing village of Arsdale on the isolated rocky island of Bornholm and has sought, in vain, to link the town and the family. However, in the course of researching the history of the Baltic area, he/she reads of the Danish Crusades culminating in Estonia's acceptance of Christianity in 1219. Ah ... a Knight Templar, from the town of Arsdale, heroically participates in Crusades and comes home to erect his castle, guarding the coast before the end of the Crusades ... maybe 1211? A knight must have a coat-of-arms ... how about one with, not a helmet from later centuries, but chain mail more typical of the 13<sup>th</sup> century? And in the middle, a cross to show his affiliation? Maybe above that the mitre of an archbishop, the one who made him a Knight Templar? And the crest ... red and white, like the colors of the Templars' outfits?

Another researcher (or perhaps the same one at a different point in time) wonders about a connection between the Aar River of Switzerland and the often cited surname "Aarsdale". He or she finds history books which tell of the Burgundians' thwarted efforts to move into the area that is present-day Belgium, of being repelled by the Roman troops and relocated to Helvetia, and how they later *did* move into Belgium. Voila! From the valleys of the Aar and his castle atop the alpine peaks came the knight and his family, his descendants to settle later in "Holland".

Have facts been spun into fiction, and has our "re-discovery" of these facts enticingly lured us into believing that they *prove* the fiction? Were we *meant* to piece together actual history and family myth in this fashion?

The purpose of this "dissertation" is not to spread unfounded conclusions about the family origins and the coat-of-arms. The actual purpose is two-fold. First, with the publication of Haagensen's book, many Van researchers will begin to make the same connections touched on in this article, and with the rise of the internet, it will soon result in a proliferation of conjecture. CRV well knows that conjecture on the internet spreads like wildfire and quickly becomes "accepted knowledge". The *Vanguard* is going on record to say that, however alluring the connection between historical fact and family myths may be, the myths have neither been supplanted nor supported by facts.

The second purpose of this article is to expose the historical facts to the unflinching light of scrutiny so that we may *research* these possibilities. There is nothing wrong with asking whether the Knights Templar even bore coats-of-arms. Thusfar, CRV has been able to determine that the handful of Grand Masters of the Knights had crests and that these bore no resemblance to the purported Van Arsdale coat-of-arms. We also know that the van Aersdalen family lived in Flanders as far back as 1366 ... will any records show them to have been there 150 years earlier? If so, *assuming the adoption of the surname from the erection of a castle is true*, the connection to Bornholm is broken. This would place the family and the creation of the surname in the Low Countries in 1211, and the Bornholm town would thus become a coincidence. CRV has asked our French cousins to investigate the ancient Burgundian records as well as those around Ronse, Belgium to ferret out any 11<sup>th</sup> century evidence of our presence.

The fact of the matter remains that we may never know if the family came from Bornholm, or Switzerland, because we are not only dealing with records of remote antiquity but, as has been pointed out before, its next to impossible to connect someone *from* Arsdale to someone *in* Årsdale/Aar's dales. ◇



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

Submitted by **Kay Mackey**, 883 Van Wagner Road #1, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-6505.

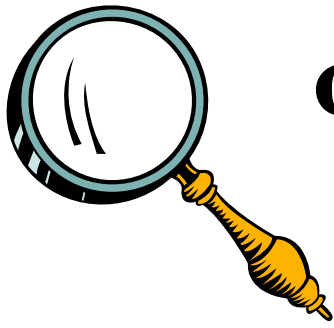
On June 5, 2003, **Kenneth Van Nosdall** celebrated his 96th birthday! Kenneth was born in New Paltz, NY, the son of George and Lottie (Hasbrouck) Van Nosdall. On his mother's side, Kenneth traces his lineage to Abraham Hasbrouck, one of the twelve original patentees of New Paltz.

As a youth he worked on the Shandaken tunnel that transports water from the Gilboa Reservoir to the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster Co., NY and then to NYC. He was a driver for Adirondack Transit Lines in the 1930s and from 1941 until his retirement in 1971 was employed at IBM Corporation in Poughkeepsie. He entered the US Army in February 1944 and in September sailed on the Queen Mary along with 8000 other troops to join General George S. Patton's 3rd Army. He was in the 10th Regiment

5th division (the bloody diamond). He landed on Omaha Beach as part of the replacements for the soldiers involved in the D-Day invasion. As an infantryman, he fought his way across France and was wounded on December 17, 1944 (the first day of the Battle of the Bulge) near Echternach, Germany. He received surgical intervention for a severe head wound and was sent to military hospitals, first in France and then in England. In February 1945 he returned home on the USHS Wisteria (Capt. Van Rosen). On arrival at Charleston, SC he was interviewed by Warren Hull on the Vox Pop radio show. He was discharged in June 1945 and is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans.

His only brother, Clinton H. (1900-1990) and he each had one daughter, so Kenneth is the last male of his lineage.

His proven lineage: Kenneth, George A. (1876-1955), Samuel (1843-1887), John R. (1808-1884), Derrick (1777-1853), Dirck (c.1744-?). His possible further lineage (from *The Vanguard*, vol. IV, no. 1, pp. 18-20): Dirck (1722-c.1793); Dirck Cornelis (c.1693-?), Cornelis Simonsz (1665-1745); Sijmon Jansz van Aersdalen (1628-1710). ◇



## QUERIES

Who is the father of **Mary/Polly Adams** who married **Theodorus Williamson Van Osdol** in **Shelby Co., KY** on 10 September 1801? Thanks. *Lucille Wahrenbrock, 745 Timberland Drive, Apt. 102, Story City, IA 50248.*

Wish to communicate with anyone having information on two of the daughters of **Isaac Vanasdlen** and **Margretha "Elizabeth" Arnold**. Isaac was baptized 5/27/1770 at Conewago, York (now Adams) Co., PA to **Johannes Jansz van Arsdalen** (1731-1772) and wife **Neltje Peterson**. They are:

1. **Elizabeth Vanasdlen**, born c. 1798; married **Henry Ker, Kerr, or Kern** on 10/31/1816 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlisle, Cumberland Co., PA.
  2. **Christina Vanasdlen**, born c. 1800; married **John Snyder** on 11/8/1821 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlisle.
- Isaac and Elizabeth** and family moved to Cumberland Co., PA before 1800. Thanks. *Ruth Vanasdalan, 110 Sycamore Drive, Mt. Holly Springs, PA 17065.* ◇

### FURTHER NOTES ON SARAH WYCKOFF WIFE OF JAN VAN AERSDALEN

The following article was *also* submitted by **Barbara L. Van Norsdall**, 5050 Tamarus St., Apt. 119, Las Vegas, NV 89119-2036 ([vandenbm8@cox.net](mailto:vandenbm8@cox.net)).

Research indicates that Jan (John) Cornelisz Van Arsdalen's second wife, Sarah Wyckoff Van Voorhees was the daughter of Pieter Wyckoff and Willemetje Jansen Schenck and not Jacob Cornelisz Wyckoff and Willemetje Janse Stryker (Jacob was Pieter's younger brother.). The *Vanguard* newsletter, volume II, No. 1, page 10, states that after Jan's first wife Jannetje Dorland died, he married Sara (Wyckoff) Van Voorhees, a widow and the daughter of Jacob Cornelisz Wyckoff and Willemetje Janse Stryker (*Marriages from the Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the town of Flatbush, Kings County, New York - Vol. 1*, Josephine C. Frost, 1915, p. 63). It was recorded as: "Joh. Van Aarsdalen, widower, and Sara Van Vooreest, widow. Married April 3, 1743".

Jan Van Arsdalen died in 1750, seven years after he and Sarah married. Sarah and Jan's first son was named Isaac. It is assumed this was done to honor her former husband. The name of Isaac does not appear in the ancestry of Jan or Sarah.

Pieter Wyckoff's will, made at Flatlands, May 25, 1753, probated March 23, 1759, is recorded in the New York City Surrogate's office. It is also in



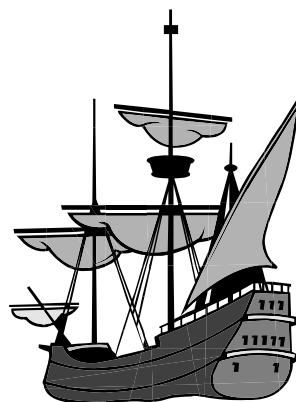
Abstract of Wills Vol V 1754-1760, The New York Historical Society, 1896, Page 253. "In the name of God, Amen, May 25, 1753. I, Peter Wyckoff, of Flatlands, in Kings County, yeoman, being sick. My executors are to prepare for my wife Elizabeth sufficient dwelling house, with a good fire place in it, for her own use, for to keep her bedding and household goods in. I also leave her my negro boy Anthony during her life, and after her death whatever remains is for my sons. It is my will that my wife's place of abode shall be among my children or grandchildren and no where else. I leave to my eldest son *Nicholas* my largest copper kettle, for his birth right. I leave to my daughter *Sarah's* children £300, with the provision that the heirs of *Isaac Voorhees* shall well and truly execute a deed of conveyance to Abraham Duryee according to their father's bargain. I leave to my daughter Antye's children £300, with the condition that their father, Nicholas Johnson, shall come to a settlement and division in the Plantation where he now lives with my heirs. I leave to my daughter Jannettie's daughter Willemptie £300. All the rest of my estate I leave to my 6 sons, Nicholas, Peter, John, Jacobus, Cornelius, and Marten. I make my sons John and Nicholas executors." Witnesses, Stephen Schenck, Folkert Strong, Nicholas Schenck. Proved, March 23, 1759.

*The Wyckoff Family in America, The Descendants of Nicholas, Wyckoff*, Third Edition, Volume 1 says Sarah Wyckoff married first, circa 1726, Isaac Voorhees who died about 1743 and married second, 3 Apr 1743, John Van Arsdale (son of Cornelius Van Arsdale). Sarah had one child by Isaac Voorhees, Nelly born circa 1730 and three children by John Van Arsdale, Isaac bp 23 Nov

1744, Sara, bp 4 May 1747, and Altje, bp 25 Feb 1750.

Regarding Sarah Wyckoff's mother, according to Virkus' *First Families of America: The Compendium of American Genealogy*, p 579 Pieter (Peter) son of Claes (Nicholas) Pieterse and Sarah Montfort was married twice, first to Willemfstje Jansan Schenck and second to Anne Elizabeth (unknown). The marriage to Anne Elizabeth was in 1716.

A birthdate for Sarah Wyckoff has not been found although dates from 1701 to 1719 have been listed. If the wedding date to Isaac Van Voorhees is correct, 1726, then she would have had to been born before 1711. This would make Willemtje Jansen Schenk her mother. ◇



## Signing off .....

Sijman Jansen van Aardalen

Corneelis Sijmense van Aardal

Simpse van Aardalen

Garrit Vaarsdalen

Abraham Vanorsdal

William Vanorsdal

Isaac Vanorsdal

E.M. Vanordale

C. Russell Vanorsdale

Chas R. Vanorsdale