

# New Netherland Connections

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## Some Erroneous Marriages in Bergen's *Kings County*

by

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Over the years we have discovered a number of alleged marriages in Teunis G. Bergen's *Register... of the early settlers of Kings County* (1881) [hereafter K.Co.] which did not seem to be verifiable in any primary source, and which involved serious chronological difficulties. Closer examination revealed that fully eighteen of these dubious marriages — most of which we here definitively prove never to have occurred — all have their origin in a simple misreading of one source, namely the 17<sup>th</sup>-century membership lists of the Flatbush Dutch Church. After this article had been almost completely cast in its present form, we learned that reference to one of Bergen's errors — respecting Gerrit Elbertsz Stoothoff and his supposed wife Willemtje Pieters — and with recognition of its cause, had already been made by Harry Macy in NYGBR 122 (1991):143-49. However, we still feel that the material here is worth publishing, as it is enlightening to consider these erroneous marriages as a group; and while each entry in our list is meant to be self-contained, the methodology of the present article will be better appreciated if it is read as a whole.

These errors owe their origin to the circumstance that in the Flatbush membership lists, many pages were divided down the center, with the names of men running down one side and those of women down the other. The names of actual husbands and wives (and sometimes of brothers and sisters) were written side-by-side, but the names of other unattached persons were in some places crowded in wherever they could be fit, causing (as Macy notes in the Stoothoff case) names of unconnected persons to be "coincidentally recorded opposite each other." The inference of any affinity between these juxtaposed names, other than what is expressly stated in the record, is clearly unwarranted, as many of the persons mentioned were local youths just coming of an age to be "catechumens," and in these cases their real marriages almost invariably turn up about three to seven years later in the register of the same church. (Coincidentally, two of the persons listed side-by-side actually married each other later; these were Hendrick Jans van Dyck and Jannetje Harmans, whom we do not include in our listing because Bergen [K.Co. 334] correctly cites their marriage record.) Josephine Frost, in the carefully-typed copy which she made for the NYG&BS of Frank L. Van Cleef's transcript thereof [FHL 017,663, item 5], and David William Voorhees, in his excellent new edition of *Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush, Kings County, New York, volume 1, 1677-1720* (New York: The Holland Society of New York, 1998), whenever possible staggered these unmatched names to discourage the assumption that they were connected. (Nevertheless, by an unfortunate error in the latter edition, the Jan Teunisz and Zwaantje Potters who appear on p. 352 are identified as husband and wife in the volume's index.)

Bergen, however, capriciously attached significance to some of these pairings, representing them as marriages, and these alleged marriages were automatically lent a certain air of plausibility from the fact that many of the supposed partners were well-matched in age, having reached early adulthood together. However, there are direct arguments against the possibility of most of the alleged

marriages, and in a few cases the difficulties are insurmountable as *both* persons can be shown to have married someone else altogether. While it is hypothetically possible that some of these persons could have been married but the fact omitted in the record, we consider this very unlikely.

The effects of Bergen's publication of these erroneous marriages has been most pernicious. Necessarily presented in his book without dates, they give the false impression that substantial numbers of the early Flatbush marriage records are missing, and that those which survive are unreliable in their indications of the parties' prior marital status. Further, since Bergen was mainly concerned in his book with creating entries for *men*, most of the male subjects concerned are shown with an extra wife who has to be wedged into their youthful career and then disappear to make room for a "second" wife, whereas many of the women's names are treated with such casual disregard that where a difficulty would have arisen they are simply multiplied into two (or in one case three) persons. In two cases — those of Jan Lambertsz and Hendrick Jans — he has even duplicated his male subjects, and the references to Jan Lambertsz are on consecutive lines of the same page! Bergen's work, then, can hardly be relied upon to provide an accurate view of the lifespan or of the conditions of married life in 17th-century New Netherland.

But our present concern must be primarily from a genealogical perspective, and here many of Bergen's mistatements have been kept alive by constant repetition in the literature, leading to much misdirected research. In some cases the infected works include even the standard published accounts of the families concerned, while — what is almost worse — those studies concentrating on family branches far-removed from their original homes in Kings County have often found an audience lacking access to the requisite materials for testing their authenticity, so that their errors have even more resolutely evaded detection. Even such excellent authors as A. Van Doren Honeyman and Charles Carroll Gardner have been fooled by Bergen's claims, especially when the persons concerned were not the main focus of their enquiries. Although a few of these erroneous marriages have been previously questioned or refuted, notably by Mabel (a.k.a. Mrs. John M.) Spell, Harry Macy's 1991 Montfort paper is the only publication known to use which demonstrates awareness of the ultimate source of the error. We trust that the following catalogue, which draws from the widest selection of published materials we could obtain, will help to resolve a few of the conundra of Kings County genealogy.

In this list, which we cannot guarantee to be exhaustive, the spelling of the names has been normalized. The references to the original membership list are given both for the well-known Van Cleef-Frost transcript, constituting the fifth volume of a complete edition of the church records (which used to be cited in the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* as "Fl.Fr.," and is so here for brevity), and for David Voorhees' new edition of the first book of records. Other abbreviations are standard ones used in the *Record* and in the pages of the present publication. Surnames in square brackets do not occur in the original sources but have been added to conform with the usage in Bergen and other modern authors. The designations "j.m." and "j.d." stand for *jong man* and *jonge dame*, the Dutch terms for an unmarried man and woman, respectively. We include page-references for each known *mistake* in Bergen; sometimes this information is available or

applicable for only one person of the pair, as the other is not featured in a separate account, or else is treated correctly.

Fl.Fr. 5:39 / Voorhees 352

**Jan Teunisz & Swaentje Potters** (K.Co. 95), who appear in the membership listed as of 't-Veer (*i.e.* Brooklyn Ferry). Our suspicion of this statement is alerted by the annotation next to Swaentje's name that she "removed to Midwout," when there is no corresponding note beside the name of her supposed husband. Consideration of available printed sources suggests that the woman here referred to was in fact Swaentje Jans, widow (not daughter) of the well-known Brooklyn merchant Cornelis De Potter (see the present writer's articles in NYGBR 129: 161-70 and 131: 260-62) and that Jan Teunisz was the one of "t Veer van Breukelen" who was betrothed 26 Oct. 1679 to Catalina Theunise Bogaert (Fl.Fr. 3:5/Voorhees 222). This man was generally known as Jan Theunisse Denyse or Nyssen (K.Co. 93; NYGBR 66:235).

Honeyman, in his 1900 Nevius genealogy, p. 663, tries to accommodate Bergen's statement by interpreting "Jan Teunisz" as a reference to Swaentje Potters' (fifth) husband, Jan Strycker; but Strycker's own signature, reproduced in DHM 33(2):11, contains no patronymic, and we have seen nothing in any record which would suggest that he ever used one, or that it was Theunisz. Incidentally, the *index* to Voorhees' edition of the Flatbush Church Records requires correction in two places, as it identifies "Jan Teunisz" and "Swaantje/Zwaantje de Potter" as spouses.

Fl.Fr. 5:49 / Voorhees 362

**Cornelis Teunis** (K.Co. 300) & **Harmtje Dirks**, who joined the church at Brooklyn on 9 April 1680. The record has a note beside her name saying that she subsequently "removed," but nothing comparable beside his, so it is unlikely they were spouses. In reality he was probably the "Cornelis Tuenessen, j.m., residing at Breukelen" who was betrothed 22 Aug. 1687 to Neeltje [Theunisse] Bogaert (Fl.Fr. 3:30/Voorhees 262); this man was generally known as Cornelis Theunisse Denys or Nyssen (K.Co. 92-93; NYGBR 66:235). She was probably the Harmtje Dircks, "young dame from Breuckelen, living at The Ferry," who married 26 Sept. 1680, Thomas Koek (Fl.Fr. 3:8/Voorhees 226; there is a duplicate of this record in the register of the New York Dutch Church), and whom Bergen identifies as a member of the Woertman family (K.Co. 392). Perhaps because Bergen's mention of this supposed couple is so brief and does not attempt to infer the surnames of the parties, later writers do not appear to have copied him.

Fl.Fr. 5:49 / Voorhees 364

**Juriaen Hendricks** (K.Co. 141) & **Cornelia de Bevoise**. This supposed marriage is given by Bergen only under Hendricks, while in his account of the de Bevoise family (K.Co. 85) Cornelia is correctly shown as the wife of Gerrit Gerritsz Dorland (*q.v.* below for the evidence). As this marriage occurred within a few months of Juriaen Hendricks' appearance on the lists on 20 Jan. 1682, it is not credible

that he could have been married to Cornelia at the time. We have not identified an actual marriage for Juriaen Hendricks himself.

Fl.Fr. 5:50 / Voorhees 364

Gerrit Gerritsz Dorland (K.Co. 101) & Geertruydt Aukes [van Nuys]. This marriage is given by Bergen only under his account of the Dorland family, not under that of Van Nuys. In fact Gerrit was betrothed to his real wife, Cornelia de Bevoise (previously discussed as the supposed wife of Juriaen Hendricks), on 29 April 1682 (Fl.Fr. 3:13/Voorhees 234), the record referring to them as “j.m.” and “j.d.” Furthermore, Cornelia was still alive in 1685, when her son Carel was baptized (Fl.Fr. 1:48/Voorhees 436). Thus Gerrit could not have had a previous wife, and he could not have married Geertruydt Aukes during this period. And in reality, Geertruydt Aukes, who was presumably a daughter of Auke Janse van Nuys (K.Co., 351), became the first wife of Joost Fransen some time before 2 Nov. 1679, when they baptized a child in the Flatbush Dutch Church, the original record calling the father Frans Joosten in error (Fl.Fr. 1:12/Voorhees 394). This marriage is correctly stated in Carrie E. Allen, *Van Nuys Genealogy* (privately printed, 1916), p. 8. As “Jost Franse widower of Geertruy Auckers” he married secondly in 1692, Annetie Jorisse, widow of Marten Ryerse (Fl.Fr. 3:37/Voorhees 272), and as “Joost Franse” he made his will on 27 Jan. 1696 (WNYHS, I, 277). Bergen failed to recognize that these men were the same and treats them in two different places (K.Co., 117, 170). Mrs. Spell, in NYGBR 86 (1955): 52, rightly emphasized that Geertruydt “was married only once,” but did not comment on Bergen’s bifurcation of Joost Fransen.

Returning to the supposed marriage of Gerrit Dorland and Geertruydt Aukes van Nuys, it is repeated in the standard account of this family, John Dorland Cremer, *Records of the Dorland family in America ... sprung from Jan Gerretse Dorlandt, Holland emigrant, 1652, and Lambert James Dorlandt, Holland emigrant, 1663* (Washington, D.C., 1898), pp. 43, 45. On the latter of these pages it is suggested, “It seems that all his children, with perhaps the exception of the first child, were by his second wife, Gertrude Aukes van Nuys.... We may surmise that the names of two of his children, Cornelius and Charles, were applied through respect and affection for his first wife, Cornelia, and her father Carel De Beauvoise.” The writer fails to recognize the anomaly implied by the absence in the Dorland family of names used by the van Nuys family, such as the distinctive Aucke. Although Bergen’s statement was at one time tacitly accepted also by Mrs. John M. Spell in NYGBR 79 (1948): 116, she later realized her error and in NYGBR 86 (1955): 52, pointed out, in effect, that Gerrit was betrothed to his real wife, Cornelia de Bevoise, less than a month after the appearance of this entry in the membership lists on 30 March 1682, and that Cornelia was still alive in 1685.

Fl.Fr. 5:56 / Voorhees 370

Jan Monfoort (K.Co. 210) & Geertje Pieters (K.Co. 197, *s.v.* Luyster). Bergen duplicates this “couple,” treating them as if they belonged to two different generations of the Monfoort family. This error may be traced back to his highly confused and unconvincing “Monfoort” article in NYBGR 7 (1876): 152-60, at pp. 152 and 153, in which he had suggested in the first instance that the bride was of

the Luyster family (although in K.Co. he does not commit himself to her surname in his Monfoort article). This is an anachronism if applied to the "older" Jan Monfoort, and the suggestion will work no better for the "younger" Jan Monfoort, who when he in reality married Ida Abrahamse [Brinckerhoff] in 1687 is called "j.m." in the record (Fl.Fr. 3:29/Voorhees 260). And in reality, Geertje Pieters [Luyster] m. in 1678, Christoffel Jansz Romeyn (Fl.Fr. 3:2/Voorhees 214).

William E. Eardeley, in his account of the Montfoort family in *Chronology and Ancestry of Chauncey M. Depew* (1918), p. 73, silently passes over Bergen's "older" Jan Monfoort but still assigns a first wife "Geertje —" to the "younger" one. According to Harry Macy, Jr., in "Sara (De Plank) Montfort," NYGBR 122 (1991): 143-49, at p. 148, "Mrs. John Spell, in her "Pieter Cornelis Luyster of the Poor Bowery and His Descendants" (MS., 1955, NYG&BS Library), effectively eliminates Geertje Pieters as the wife of either Jan." We have not seen Mrs. Spell's work ourselves.

Fl.Fr. 5:56 / Voorhees 370

**Gerrit Jans (K.Co. 159) & Gerritje Reynierse.** These persons did not join the church at the same time, and as the record shows her as "moved" but has no similar note beside his name, it is unlikely they were spouses. Bergen also assigns Gerritje as a wife to Jan Lambertsz (see below). Her rather distinctive name suggests that she was in reality the "Geritje Reijniers Wizzelpenning" betrothed in 1680 to Hendrick Claesz Vechten (Fl.Fr. 3:8/Voorhees 226). Bergen's correctly cites this marriage under both Van Vechten (K.Co. 364) and Wizzelpenning (K.Co. 391), but with no mention of Gerrit Jans or of Jan Lambertsz, so fortunately later writers do not seem to have made such an association.

Fl.Fr. 5:56 / Voorhees 370

**Jan Lambertsz (K.Co. 180) & Harntje Willems.** As there is a note beside her name saying "removed" but no similar one beside his, it is unlikely they were spouses. We have not identified an actual marriage for either Jan Lambertsz or for Harntje Willems. He is, incidentally, identified in the index to Voorhees' edition of the Flatbush Church records as the husband of Mettie van Wickelen, but the record itself only shows that these persons appeared together as sponsors at a baptism.

Fl.Fr. 5:56 / Voorhees 370

**Jan Lambertsz (K.Co. 180) & Gerritje Reynierse.** Bergen has duplicated this man, as his only evidence for the existence of this "couple" is precisely the same passage as that for the previous one. Again, as there is a note beside her name saying "removed" but no similar one beside his, it is unlikely they were spouses. As previously noted, we have not identified an actual marriage for either Jan Lambertsz. Bergen also assigns Gerritje as a wife of Gerrit Jans (see above), but there can be little doubt that she was really the wife of Hendrick Claesz Vechten.

Fl.Fr. 5:56 / Voorhees 372

**Marten Pietersz [Wyckoff] (K.Co. 396) & Femmetje Aukes [van Nuys].** Bergen lists this supposed marriage only under his account of the Wyckoffs, while under that of van Nuys he correctly states (p.

352) that Femmetje married Jan Stevense [van Voorhees]. In the record of this marriage, which occurred in 1680 (Fl.Fr. 3:8/Voorhees 226), she is called “j.d.,” so she could not have been previously married. In the record of Marten’s real marriage in 1683 to Hannah Willems he is similarly called “j.m.” (Fl.Fr. 3:15/Voorhees 238).

Fl.Fr. 5:57 / Voorhees 372

Gerrit Elbertsz Stoothoff (K.Co. 285) & Willemetje Pieters [“Monfoort”] (K.Co. 210). Bergen assumed that the “bride” was a Monfoort, and included her in his disastrous “Monfoort” article in NYGBR 7 (1876): 152-60, at p. 154, implicitly leaving open the possibility that she might have been mother of some of his children. Such an alliance is impossible, because in the record of Gerrit’s real marriage to Johanna Nevius in 1684 he is called “j.m.,” indicating that he was single (Fl.Fr. 3:22/Voorhees 248), and in the record of Willemetje’s real marriage to Gerrit Coerten [van Voorhees] (*q.v.* below) in 1685, she is similarly called “j.d.” (Fl.Fr. 3:25/Voorhees 252). Furthermore in reality she was a Luyster, not a Monfoort, and her true identity is given in an account of her second husband, Pieter Roos, in NNC 2:87; we have not seen, Mrs. John Spell in “Pieter Cornelis Luyster of the Poor Bowery and His Descendants” (MS., 1955, NYG&BS Library), cited in this connection by Harry Macy, Jr., in NYGBR 122 (1991): 143-49, at p. 148.

Gerrit Stoothoff’s supposed first marriage is also accepted in Honeyman’s 1900 Nevius genealogy, p. 158, in Eardeley, *Chronology and Ancestry of Chauncey M. Depew* (1918), p. 73, in Henry A. Stoutenburgh, *A Documentary History of... the... Dutch Congregation of Oyster Bay, Queens County, Island of Nassau (now Long Island)*, 2 vols. (1902-04) [this reference from Harry Macy; see below], and in Rosalie Fellows Bailey, *Pre-Revolutionary Dutch houses and families in northeastern New Jersey and southern New York* (New York, 1936), p. 76. Even worse, Wilson V. Ledley, “The Stoothoff family on Long Island, and in New Jersey,” pt. 1, *GMNJ*, 43 (1968): 97-109, at p. 101, paraphrases the record of this first marriage to the effect that “Gerret [Stoothoff] married Johanna ... Nevius ... as widower of Willemetje Pieters Monfoort,” which is a serious distortion. Finally, Harry Macy, Jr., “Sara (De Plank) Montfort,” NYGBR 122 (1991): 143-49, at p. 148, settled the matter completely when he wrote:

Teunis G. Bergen (KCo. 210, 285, REC. 7:152) thought that Pieter and Sara might also have had a daughter Willemetje Pieters, whom he made the first wife of Gerrit Elbertse Stoothoff.... In fact, when Gerrit married his “second” wife Johanna Nevius in 1684, the church register calls him “young man,” *i.e.* a batchelor ..., and all of his children appear to have been born after that date. As no primary source gives Gerrit a wife Willemetje, Bergen appears to have misread a section of the Flatbush church membership roll (1677), where Gerrit Stoothoff and Willemetje Pieters were coincidentally recorded opposite each other in parallel columns of men ’s and women’s names....

Fl.Fr. 5:57 / Voorhees 372

**Cornelis Symonsz van Arsdalen** (K.Co. 308) & **Tjelletje Reyniers [Wizzelpenning]**. Bergen gives this false marriage only under "van Arsdalen." In his account of the Wizzelpenning family (p. 391) Bergen correctly says that Tjelletje married Albert Stephensz [van Voorhees]; when she did she is called "j.d." so could not have been previously married (Fl.Fr. 3:9/Voorhees 228). The record of Cornelis' real first marriage to Aeltje Willems [van Couwenhoven] in 1687 is silent as to his previous marital status (Fl.Fr. 3:29/Voorhees 258), but it does *not* call him a widower; he was married for a second time to Marritje Dircks [Ammerman] in 1691, this record supplying the full name of his *first* wife (Fl. Fr. 3:36/Voorhees 270).

This erroneous marriage was copied by A. Van Doren Honeyman in "The Van Arsdale family — Pluckemin line," *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, 8 (1919): 96-119, at p. 100, and by Lincoln C. Cocheu in "The Van Kouwenhoven-Conover family," pt. 4, NYGBR 71(1940): 157-62, at p. 158. Mabel Spell meticulously refuted Cocheu's statement in a comment in NYGBR 79 (1948): 82, but again she does not seem to have suspected the source of the error. In the meantime Charles Carrol Gardner, in discussing Cornelis' second wife, mistakenly called her his *third* in *GMNJ*, 20 (1945): 50.

Fl.Fr. 5:57 / Voorhees 372

**Gerrit Coerten [van Voorhees]** (K.Co. 377) & **Meinsje Jans**, a false connection Bergen had claimed previously in his 1876 *Bergen Family*, p. 419. This woman, with her highly distinctive first name, was actually (on Bergen's own showing) the wife of Albert Minnes (K.Co. 207); in their marriage record of 1684 she is called "j.d.," so could not have been previously married (Fl.Fr. 3:23/Voorhees 250). Furthermore, Gerrit married in 1685, Willemetje Pieters [Luyster], being called "j.m." in the record (Fl.Fr. 25/Voorhees 252), and both parties were still alive in 1699 (see *Long Island Source Records*, pp. 53, 61). Evidence that this woman, already mentioned above as the supposed wife of Gerrit Elbertsz Stoothoff, was a Luyster, was presented in an account of her second husband Pieter Roos in NNC 2:87, and earlier by Mrs. John Spell in "Pieter Cornelis Luyster of the Poor Bowery and His Descendants" (MS., 1955, NYG&BS Library), cited by Harry Macy, Jr., in NYGBR 122 (1991): 143-49, at p. 148.

An admirable account of Meinsje's family by Harry Macy, Jr., "The Van Wiclen/Van Wickle family, including its Frisian origin and connections to Minnerly and Kranckheyt," NYGBR 128 (1997): 81-90, treats her at p. 89, ignoring the erroneous marriage to Gerrit Coerten van Voorhees.

Fl.Fr. 5:57 / Voorhees 372

**Pieter Brouwer** (K.Co. 54) & **Geertruydt Jans**. Bergen makes this the second of three (!) marriages for Brouwer, but the record of his real (and probably only) marriage, to Annetje Jansen in 1687, calls him "j.m." (Fl.Fr. 3:27/Voorhees 256). And since Geertruydt Jans was received from New Amersfoort (Flatlands), it is probable that she was actually the Geertruydt Jans, j.d., from that place, who married in 1684, Rutger Brunosz (Fl.Fr. 3:19/Voorhees 244), and baptized a child at Flatlands the following year (Fl.Fr. 1:47/Voorhees 434).

**Cornelis Pieters Luyster** (K.Co. 196) & **Aeltje Willems**. This connection is impossible, for when Cornelis married Sara Catharina Nevius in the Brooklyn Dutch Church on 2 May 1686 he is called "j.m." in the record (*Holland Society Year Book*, 1897, p. 142). As noted below, the Aeltje Willems who appears in the membership list was probably the one who subsequently married in 1687, Cornelis Symonsz van Arsdalen. Bergen might have been spared this error had he heeded the justifiable observation in Riker's *Annals of Newtown* (1852), p. 359, that Cornelis Luyster was about 19 years of age when he became a member of the Flatbush Dutch Church in 1681; among Dutch males, even in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, this was well below the normal age of first marriage, to say nothing of a second marriage.

Honeyman, in his 1900 Nevius genealogy (p. 156), cites Cornelis' 1686 marriage record, and disregards but does not challenge Bergen's claim that this man had had a previous wife. Likewise Rosalie Fellows Bailey in *Pre-Revolutionary Dutch houses and families in northeastern New Jersey and southern New York* (New York, 1936), p. 92. Cornelis Luyster's purported first marriage to Aeltje Willems is however accepted in Henry A. Stoutenburgh, *Documentary History of the Dutch Congregation of Oyster Bay...* (1904), p. 307, and in Raymon Meyers Tingley, *Some Ancestral Lines* (Rutland, Vermont, 1935), p. 301.

**Gerrit Willems van Couwenhoven** (K.Co. 77) & **Aeltje Willems**. We suspect that in the original manuscript membership list, the name of Aeltje Willems may have fallen mid-way between the names of Cornelis Pietersz Luyster and Gerrit Willems van Couwenhoven. For Bergen gives Luyster (*q.v.* above) a wife Aeltje Willems, but apparently forgetting this, also takes this woman for the wife of Couwenhoven, calling her simply "Aeltie —." Evidently he demures in this instance from quoting her patronymic as Willems, because he assumes, since it happens to match that of her husband, that it is only her married name. We are not aware of any contemporary document associating Couwenhoven with a wife Aeltje. In all probability, the Aeltje Willems who appears in the membership list is the one who married in 1687, Cornelis Symonsz van Arsdalen (*q.v.* above).

Bergen's statement was followed by Cocheu in his previously-cited "Van Kouwenhoven" article, pt. 1, NYGBR 71 (1940): 69-71, at p. 69, which cites Bergen as its only source.

**Johannes Willemsz ["Cornel"]** (K.Co. 72) & **Aeltje Coerten [van Voorhees]** (K.Co. 376). Having on p. 72 stated positively that this man was a Cornel, Bergen repeats the statement of this marriage with less certainty on p. 389, stating "this is probably Johannes Willemse Cornel." This seems anachronistic, as the Johannes Willemsz of the membership list is recorded under date of 7 April 1682 as a member at Flatlands, whereas on Bergen's own showing, Johannes Willemse Cornel is not attested as an adult before 1701, and from the account of the Cornels by Spell cited below we learn that he was still alive at the end of 1745. It would be easier and more natural to account for the man

named in the membership list as the Johannes Willemsz “from Flatlands” who was betrothed 20 Aug. 1687 to Magdalena Wynants (Fl.Fr. 3:30/Voorhees 260); as this couple served as sponsors at a Van Nuys family baptism in 1699 (Fl.Fr. 3:86/Voorhees, p. 456), we suspect she was a daughter of Wynant Pieterse van Eck, of Brooklyn, by his wife Anneken Aukes van Nuys (K.Co. 339).

In his account of the Voorhees family, Bergen not only mentions this supposed marriage on p. 376, but to make things worse, repeats it on p. 378 under the name *Altie Gerretse van Voorhees*, who does not even have the right patronymic! All this is particularly strange considering that on p. 311, Bergen correctly gives the marriage of this same Aeltje Coerten, in 1687, to Joost Rutgersz [van Brunt], the record of which calls her “j.d.” (Fl.Fr. 3:28/Voorhees 258), and he had been aware of this marriage more than a decade earlier, when he had published it on p. 6 of his 1867 Van Brunt genealogy.

The erroneous marriage of Aeltje Coerten and Jan Willems is repeated in *Historical handbook of the Van Voorhees family in the Netherlands and America* (New Brunswick, N.J.?: Van Voorhees Association, 1935), p. 36, and in Lincoln C. Cocheu, “The Van Kouwenhoven-Conover family,” pt. 3, NYGBR 71 (1940): 69-74, at p. 72. The anachronistic nature of the claim was however exposed in the careful account of the Cornels by Mabel Spell in NYGBR 96 (1965): 66-76, at p. 71.

Fl.Fr. 5:61 / Voorhees 376

Hendrick Jans (K.Co. 160) & Geertje Verkerk(en) (K.Co. 370), of New Utrecht, who joined 8 Dec. 1682. Although these persons joined the church on the same day, her name has the note “removed” added later beside it while his does not, so it is unlikely they were a couple. Likely Hendrick Jans was in reality the one “born at Amersfort, residing at Vlackebos,” who was betrothed 21 Jan. 1688 to Hester Hidette (Fl.Fr. 3:30/Voorhees 262). In his account of the Verkerk family Bergen shows two marriages for Geertje Verkerk, the second being to Jan Dirkse van der Vliet; but when Greetje married the latter man in 1683 she was called “j.d.” and could not have been previously married (Fl.Fr. 3:18/Voorhees 242).

This supposed marriage of Hendrick Jans and Geertje Verkerk is copied in an editorial note by David McQueen in “Kings County, N.Y., Wills,” pt. 2, NYGBR 47 (1916): 227-32, at p. 232.

Fl.Fr. 5:61 / Voorhees 376

Hendrick Jans [“Verkerk(en)”] (K.Co. 369) & Geertje —. Here the preceding entry turns up in a new guise, with the Verkerk(en) surname transferred from the woman to the man. Bergen cites no other evidence for the existence of a Hendrick Jans Verkerk(en).

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## Some Erroneous Marriages in Bergen's *Kings County*: a Correction

by  
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In my recent article on some erroneous marriages in Tuunis G. Bergen's *Register of the Early Settlers of Kings County* (6:4, pages 96-104) at page 100, I made an unfortunate error when mentioning Geertje Pieters Luyster, whom Tunis G. Bergen on page 197 said had "supposedly" married Jan Monfoort. I commented that "in reality, Geertje Pieters [Luyster] married in 1678 Christoffel Jansz Romeyn, citing the record of the betrothal of a "Geertje Pieters" to Christoffel Jansz Romeijn on 3 March 1678 in the Flatbush Dutch Church, per David William Voorhees, editor, *Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush, Kings County, New York, volume 1, 1677-1720* (New York: The Holland Society of New York, 1998), page 214. But this betrothal record really relates to a different Geertje Pieters, as two correspondents have pointed out to me. Harry Macy, editor of *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, observed that she was Grietje Pieters Wyckoff, as stated by Bergen on page 244. Bob Clarke of Cypress, Texas, noted that this marriage is also correctly stated in William S. Bergen's *Jacob Milton Bergen, Sr. Family of Long Island, New York: Ancestors and Descendants and Allied Families* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1995) on page 149, as well as in Kenneth A. Bennett's *William Adriaense Bennet: Descendants and Related Families* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1998) on page 152.

Harry Macy provided evidence for this identification which he has graciously permitted me to quote and which many readers will find of interest. It throws light not only on the Romeyn and Wyckoff families but also reveals the true marriage of Geertje Pieters Luyster, probably for the first time in print. Here is an unaltered extract from his letter, for which I have supplied the title.

### Christoffel Jansz Romeyn and his wife, Geertje Pieters Wyckoff

and

### Jacob Wips and his wife, Geertje Pieters Luyster

by

Harry Macy

Bergen lists the children of Christoffel Jansz Romeyn and Geertje Pieters Wyckoff as Lysbeth, Grietje, Annetje, Cornelis and Jacobus (I suspect there were others, like a Pieter and a Jan). Lysbeth and Grietje were the oldest. Lysbeth was named for the paternal grandmother, but both paternal grandparents were deceased when she was baptized (Voorhees, 389), and the witnesses were Pieter Claasz and Grietje Cornelis, who can be identified as Pieter Claasz Wyckoff and his wife Grietje Cornelis van Nes. One would expect that the next daughter, Grietje, would be named for the maternal grandmother, and her baptism (Voorhees, 300) has witnesses Pieter Claasz. and Grietje Hendricks van Nes. There are no Luyster witnesses at the baptisms of the Romeyn children, nor is there a daughter named Aeltje for Pieter Cornelissen Luyster's first wife.

If Geertje Pieters Luyster did not marry Romeyn, what did happen to her? Years ago when I was working on the Whiteheads, I went through some of the papers of James Riker at the New York Public Library, and I used the opportunity to jot down anything else that looked of interest. Riker abstracted a will of Pieter Cornelissen Luyster, dated 4 Sept. 1688 at Flatlands, which he says was from "records at Brooklyn", but I don't find it among wills subsequently recorded anywhere. The will was in Dutch and named

Pieter's children and the child of Geertie by name Aeltie. From the wording of the will it seems clear that Geertie was deceased and had left only a child named Aeltie.

Then there is a deed dated 19 March 1688/89 by which the deacons of the New York (City) Dutch Church sold their former poor farm in Newtown to Pieter Cornelissen Luyster, farmer of Flatlands. Apparently the sale didn't go through because of Pieter's death, and on 11 June 1696 another deed was drawn by which his widow and children agreed with the deacons that the farm should be transferred to the sons of Cornelius and Jan. The last "child" named in the deed is **Aeltie Jacobs, daughter of Jacob Wips**, and she is clearly the granddaughter Aeltie named in the 1688 will.

So it would appear that Geertie Pieters Luyster married Jacob Wips and died before September 1688 leaving one child, a daughter Aeltie Jacobs, who was living in 1696. I have not found any other reference to Jacob Wips -- or to Aeltie Jacobs.

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