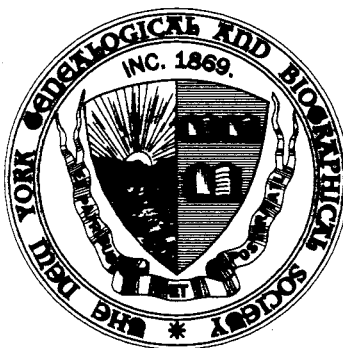


THE NEW YORK
GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL
RECORD

VOLUME 140



NUMBER 1

January 2009

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LENAERTS AND SASSENBROECK: ANCESTORS OF THE NEVIUS FAMILY OF NEW NETHERLAND

BY JOHN BLYTHE DOBSON*

SARA LENAERTS WAS THE WIFE OF JOHANNES^B NEEFF, the earliest-known Neeff ancestor of Johannes¹ Neeff (*Johannes*^A), who was in New Netherland by 1652.¹ This article presents her ancestry, plus evidence that Johannes^B Neeff went to Cologne from Antwerp by 1586, moving to Frankfurt-am-Main by 1602.

Sara was tentatively—but incorrectly—identified in Honeyman's 1900 Nevius genealogy as Sara à Braeckel.² Her name is given as Sara Lenert at the 1594 baptism of her son Johannes in Cologne, for which Maria Lenerts was a sponsor, and Anna Leonards, widow of J. J. Fossyns, was a sponsor for Sara, daughter of that Johannes.³ Some fifteen years after the appearance of Honeyman's book, it was revealed that in the eighteenth century, a Dutch descendant had recorded (perhaps copying from an earlier record) on a plaque "*Het wapen van Margaretha van Sassenbroick getrouwd met de Heer Leonards,*" apparently naming Anna's parents.⁴ In the 1980s a distinguished German

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¹ John Blythe Dobson, "Notes on the Nevius Family," RECORD 136(2005): 33–44.

² A. Van Doren Honeyman, *Joannes Nevius Schepen and Third Secretary of New Amsterdam . . .* (Plainfield, N.J.: Honeyman & Co., 1900), 40–41, 46. Honeyman's informant was an unnamed "former Archivist at The Hague." Honeyman was not inclined to pay the requested advance, as he was uncertain of the claim and believed the archivist had created some "probably mythical" ancestral records for other Americans; but later termed the identification "not impossible." The archivist apparently relied on a pair of garbled entries confusing the Nevius and à Brakel families in a well-known biographical dictionary ("Johannes Nevius" and "Sarah Nevius," in A. J. van der Aa, *Biographisch Woordenboek der Nederlanden*, 21 volumes [Haarlem: 1852–1878], 13:170). These articles actually imply something quite different (though equally wrong): that Johannes Neeff's son, Ds. Johannes Neeffius (1594–1635?), married a Sara à Brakel, supposedly a daughter of the famous theologian William à Brakel. In reality Neeffius' daughter, the poetess Sara Nevius, married this William à Brakel. The archivist transposed this alleged marriage to the previous generation of the lineage, thereby, in effect, renaming and converting Sara Nevius into her own grandmother! This anomaly in van der Aa was previously pointed out in F. A. van Lieburg, "Vrouwen uit het gereformeerde pietisme in Nederland (4): Sara Nevius (1632–1706)," *Documentatieblad Nadere Reformatie* 12(1988):116–27, at 125, note 3. An expanded English version of this article appeared as "Sara Nevius (1632–1706): The Pietist Ministry of a Dutch Reformed Minister's Wife," *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae* 30 No. 1 (June 2004):52–74.

³ Dobson, "Nevius" (note 1), RECORD 136:38.

⁴ Hendrik de Sandra Veldtman, heer van Slochteren, a descendant of Anna Lenaerts and Jan Fassijn, married in 1777 the widow of the former owner of Fraeylemaborch [Fraeylemaborg], an ancient manor-house at Slochteren in Groningen. His own family becoming extinct, its heraldic collections remained at the house, where an informative inventory of them was made in 1916: Mr. P. C. Bloys van Treslong Prins, "Diverse Aantekeningen gemaakt op Fraeylemaborch te Slochteren," *De Wapenheraut* 20(1916):433–54; plaque described at 447.

genealogist, Herbert de Bary of Frankfurt-am-Main, in an ancestor table published in the year of his death, identified Sara's parents as "Lenart Lenarts, merchant in Cologne" and "Maria [sic] Sassenbroics, from Louvain [Löwen]."⁵ The identification was without source, but obviously based on a memorial in the Peterskirchhof [St. Peter's churchyard] in de Bary's home town of Frankfurt, where there is a worn stone tablet in a plot known to have been owned by Johann Philipp Wierts, the husband of Anna, daughter of Sara Lenaerts, that reads in part:

A[anno] 1597. 4 Apr. Frankof[ur]ti ad Mœnum pie obiit D. Leon[ardus] Leonhardi civis Coloniensis [of Cologne] . . . uxor Margar[etha] Sassenbroics Leodiensis [of Luik (Liège)] marito carissimo. . . .⁶

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY—LENAERTS

1. — **LENAERTS**[?] was born say 1515–20. If his surname was not Lenaerts, then, considering the surname of his sons, his first name must have been Lenaert. He was probably of Luik [Liège, now in Belgium].

Children:

- 2
 - i. **LENAERT LENAERTS**, born say 1540; died 4 April 1597; married probably by 1566 **MARGARETHA VAN SASSENBROECK**.
 - ii. unidentified son, born say 1545. Jacob Lenharts, at his first communion 17 July 1589 at the Cologne German Reformed Church, was called Lenhart Lenharts *brudersohn genant* Jacob Lenharts; . . . *wonet bei m[eister] Jan Vassbender in der Strassburgergassen* [brother's son of Lenhart Lenharts . . . residing with Jan Vassbender in the Strassburgergassen].⁷ He would not appear to be a son of Carel, although that possibility cannot absolutely be eliminated.
 - iii. **CAREL LENAERTS**, born say 1550–55; living 6 November 1593, when he and his brother Lenaert accompanied Lenaert's son Hans at the latter's betrothal at Amsterdam (see below). He purchased the burgher-right of Amsterdam 8 January 1582, the entry in the *Poorterboeken* stating that he was a *kruidenier* [grocer] from Tongeren (in Limburg).⁸ Tongeren, though lying in a different province, is only about twelve miles distant from Luik, where Carel's nephew Hans Lenaerts, son of Lenaert Lenaerts, was from. Carel Lenaerts is called a *kruidenier* in the baptismal records of five of his known children. He married by 1582, probably before their arrival in Amsterdam,⁹

⁵ Herbert de Bary, "Beiträge zur Genealogie Altfrankfurter Hugenottenfamilien," *Deutsches Familienarchiv* 77(1982):1–90. De Bary was descended from Johannes Neeff and Sara Lenaerts five times over, so that Lenaerts–Neeff descents occur at pages 68, 73, 79 (*bis*), with one of the two descents on page 79 being a double one. While Margaretha is described as of Luik on her tombstone, this could mean the province, which includes the city of Leuven (Louvain). The ancestral lands of the Sassenbroeck family lie between the cities of Luik and Leuven, as de Bary may have recognized.

⁶ A photograph of the stone is at www.peterskirchhof.de/fotos/loen_5246.jpg. It is not among the memorials transcribed in F. W. Battenberg, *Die alte und die neue Peterskirche zu Frankfurt am Main* (Leipzig & Frankfurt a. M.: 1895).

⁷ Eduard Simons, *Kölnische Konsistorial-Beschlüsse: Presbyterial-Protokolle der Heimlichen Kölnischen Gemeinde, 1572–1596* (Bonn: P. Haustein, 1905; reprinted as *Publikationen der Gesellschaft für Rheinische Geschichtskunde* #26, 1931), 337.

⁸ Carel Lenaerts, *kruidenier* [grocer], is mentioned in Oscar Gelderblom, *Zuid-Nederlandse kooplieden en de opkomst van de Amsterdamse stapelmarkt, 1578–1630* (Hilversum: dissertation, 2000), 102, 172, and in its accompanying prosopographic database, *Merchants from the Southern Netherlands and the Rise of the Amsterdam Staplemarket, 1578–1630* (amsterdammerchants.niwi.knaw.nl). This Tongeren is not to be confused with two other places of the same name in northern Netherlands, one in Overijssel and the other in Gelderland.

⁹ A search of Amsterdam betrothals and marriages was commissioned from Ms. Ineke Heiner-Way, a professional genealogist, but she reported that none could be found.

MARGARIET MATHIJS [VAN DER HART],¹⁰ who was living 20 January 1593 at the baptism of their youngest known child. They had six children baptized at Amsterdam between 1582 and 1593.¹¹

2. **LENAERT LENAERTS** was born say 1540 and died 4 April 1597. He is commemorated by a monument in the Peterskirchhof, Frankfurt-am-Main, although he surely died before his family lived in that city. Although his name is given as “Leon. Leonhardi” in the Latin inscription on his tombstone, and a document mentioning his son calls him “Leonardus de Leonardis,” it is clear from contemporary references that he did not Latinize his name, as was customary only for pastors, professors, or physicians. His arms are in an heraldic painting at Fraeylemaborg¹² and recorded for three grandsons (sons of his son Ds. Paulus de Leonardis) in the armorial registers of the Gelderland-Overijssel students’ associations of various universities in the early seventeenth century.¹³

He married certainly by 1570, probably by 1566, **MARGARETHA VAN SASSENBROECK** (see the SASSENBROECK NOTE at the end of this article), who was born say 1545, probably in the province of Luik (Liège), and was living in 1609. She is called “Margar. Sassenbroics, Leodiensis [from Luik]” on her memorial in the Peterskirchhof, Frankfurt, which does not give her date of death. If she ever lived in Frankfurt, she may have followed her married daughter Sara there. Margeritte, *vefue de feu* [widow of the deceased] Leonard Leonardsen, was a sponsor 11 December 1604 at the Cologne French Reformed Church with [her son-in-law] Jehan Fassing.¹⁴ Margret *witwe van L. Lenaerts*, was a sponsor 15 March 1607 at the Cologne German

¹⁰ Her surname seems to be known only from the 1608 record of the betrothal of her daughter Margrietje. See A. B. van der Vies, “Huwelijksintekeningen vóór 1680 van Predikanten in de Kerkelijke registers te Amsterdam,” pt. 5, *De Nederlandsche Leeuw* 39 (1921): cols. 97–100, at col. 99.

¹¹ Amsterdam Baptisms, 1:196, 304; 38:80, 86; 2:61; 38:279. The online index for baptisms was examined (Stadsarchief.amsterdam.nl/archieven/archiefbank/indexen/doopregisters/zoek/index.nl.html), and photocopies of the original register pages were ordered from the archives.

¹² Eight quarterings for the children of *Sieur Hendrick de Sandra* (great-grandson of Lenaert Lenaerts and Margaretha van Sassenbroeck) and his first wife, Margaretha Tortarolis (married 1646), are shown on the armorial plaque formerly at Fraeylemaborg, dated 1679. By remarkable good fortune, not only had this object been returned on loan to the Freylemaborg museum by 2007, enabling a photograph to be supplied, but a painting of it, made in 1680, in which the arms are labeled with the associated surnames, is reproduced in a novelized biography (L. Engelberts, *Anna Maria de Sandra*, [Zutphen, 1927], facing 134). The “Leonards” arms are canting arms with a lion (Latin *leo*) rampant (?), clutching something in its right forepaw.

¹³ Otto Schutte, *De Wapenboeken der Gelders-Overijsselse Studentenverenigingen* (’s-Gravenhage: Koninklijk Nederlandsch Genootschap voor Geslacht- en Wapenkunde, 1975), 65, 86, 206; I am much indebted to Otto Schutte for assistance in the interpretation of this material. These three entries show various impalings, not quarterings, of the Lenaerts and Sassenbroeck arms (for the latter of which see the SASSENBROECK NOTE at the end of this article). All support the description of the Lenaerts coat as a lion rampant or issuant, probably *argent*, probably on a field *sable*, holding in its right forepaw what is probably a bunch of ears of corn, *sinople*. Oddly, the three men failed to quarter the arms of their mother, the existence of which seems to be proved by her tombstone (see below); for she had no known brothers and was probably an heraldic heiress.

¹⁴ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials 221:10. All readings of the Cologne church records are from images of the original manuscript pages (with the exception of those from the book Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials 216a, which apparently now exists only in a transcription made in 1920), published as a set of five CD-ROMs in the “Edition Brühl” series (Patrimonium Transcriptum Verlags GmbH, Bonn; www.patrimonium-transcriptum.org/). It includes the records of the Dutch (volume 11, 2 parts), French (volume 67), and German (volume 66) Reformed congregations, with a modern name index for all three (volume 63). All original records are now housed in the Landesarchiv Nordrhein-Westfalen Personenstandsarchiv Brühl, Schlossstraße 10-12, 50321 Brühl. The contents of the CDs are: volume 11, part 1: GA 0235_HAST (Kirchenrats- und Synodalprotokolle), LK 224 (part); volume 11, part 2: LK 224, 225, 226; volume 66: LK 216, 216a, 218a, 218b, 219, 220; volume 67: LK 221, 222.

Reformed Church.¹⁵ *Witwe* L. Lenaerts was a sponsor 16 February 1609 at the same church.¹⁶ Where a sponsor is named only as *Margaretha* Lenaerts, it is unclear whether she is this *Margaretha* or her daughter *Margaretha*.

He is possibly the man designated merely as “Leonart” (with various spellings) who is mentioned regularly in the consistory minutes of the Cologne German Reformed Church from 29 January 1576 onward.¹⁷ He is surely the Leonart Leonarts (etc.) who appears regularly from 21 December 1577 through 30 August 1593 (when he retired as an elder), with sporadic reappearances through to the end of the surviving minutes in January 1596.¹⁸ Lenaert Lenaertszen joined [his son-in-law] Jan Fassyngh [Jan Fassijn, husband of Anna Lenaerts] in accompanying Jan’s sister Maria at her betrothal 23 December 1592 at the Cologne Dutch Reformed Church.¹⁹ Lenaert Lenaerts and his brother Caerl Lenaerts accompanied his son Hans at the latter’s betrothal 6 November 1593 at Amsterdam. Lenert Lenerts was a sponsor 1 April 1595 at the Cologne German Reformed Church for a child of [his daughter] Anna Lenaerts and Jan Fassijn.²⁰ Lennert Lennertz was a sponsor 20 May 1595 at the same church for a child of [his daughter] Maria Lenaerts and Wilhelm Engels.²¹

Children of Lenaert Lenaerts and *Margaretha van Sassenbroeck*:²²

- i. **ANNA LENAERTS**, born say 1566, probably in Luik; died 26 February 1647.²³ She married in or very shortly after 1585,²⁴ **JOHAN FASSIN/FASSIJN**, who was living in 1607 (when Anna is called his wife), but died by 1632 (when Anna is called his widow).²⁵ Johan Fassing was in Cologne by 22 January 1582, when he is briefly men-

¹⁵ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:9.

¹⁶ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216a:11a.

¹⁷ *Kölnische Konsistorial-Beschlüsse* (note 7), 108–43.

¹⁸ *Kölnische Konsistorial-Beschlüsse* (note 7), 409 (retirement as elder), 451, 455.

¹⁹ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 225:35a.

²⁰ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216a:53.

²¹ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216a:54a.

²² Lenaert is called the father of Hans, Paulus, and *Margaretha* in contemporary records. Sara’s parents are memorialized in the plot in which her descendants are buried. Descendants of Anna and Paulus used identical and extremely distinctive arms. Sponsors of the children of Maria, Peter, and Frans included either Lenaert Lenaerts or his wife *Margaretha*, plus Lenaert and *Margaretha*’s daughter, Anna Lenaerts, her husband Jan Fassijn, or their eldest daughter Maria Fassijn. Their son Hans (born about 1569 or 1570) is said in his betrothal to have come from Luik; son Paulus (born about 1582 or 1583) is said in his university records to have come from Cologne. These were probably their respective birthplaces, because the first-known mention of their father in Cologne is 29 March 1573, when the consistory minutes of the Cologne German Reformed Church record that Leonart Leonarts *ein kind im Pabstum teuffen lassen* [had a child baptized in the (Catholic) cathedral] (*Kölnische Konsistorial-Beschlüsse* [note 7], 51).

²³ The family register of her grandson Hendrik de Sandra (note 4), rediscovered in 1916, states under 1647: “Den 26 February is myn grootmoeder Anna Fassijn segge Anna Leenders weduwe van Jan Fassijn godtsaeligh in den Heere ontslapen.”

²⁴ At the very end of 1584 Johan Fassijn is called the “servant” of Lenaert Lenaerts (note 27) and is not likely to have been so designated were he already the latter’s son-in-law. His eldest daughter Maria was old enough to receive her first communion 8 January 1591 (*Kölnische Konsistorial-Beschlüsse* [note 7], 370). This leaves a narrow window for the marriage, which would have occurred prior to the commencement of the extant records of marriages or betrothals for any of the Reformed congregations of Cologne (1588 for the Dutch Church; 1600 for the French church; 1615 for the German church).

²⁵ Jan’s sister Maria is called “daughter of – Fassyngh of Luycke [Luik]” in her betrothal (Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials [note 14] 225:35a). This record is presumably the basis of the description of this family as “deriving from Luikerland” in J. van Duren Dzn., “Bijdragen tot de Familiegesciedenis van het geslacht Koenen in Duitschland en Nederland,” part 7, *De Wapenheraut* 5(1901):133–40, at 138. A portrait in the collection of the Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie representing Jan’s granddaughter Anna Maria Fassijn, daughter of Jan Fassijn, contains a coat of arms with a paternal quarter of *azure, a spur argent, in fess, the rowel facing right, between six bezants or in fess, 3 and 3*. For a reproduction of this portrait see *Jaarboek van het Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie* 48(1994):116.

tioned in the minutes of the consistory of the Cologne German Reformed Church.²⁶ The 18 December 1584 minutes mention Johann Fassingh, Leinhart Leinhartzs *kneeth* [servant], *und* Franss Fassingh *sein bruder* [his brother].²⁷ Jan Fassyngh accompanied his sister Maria—he is specifically called her brother in the record—at her betrothal 23 December 1592 at the Cologne Dutch Reformed Church; they were also accompanied by Lenaert Lenaertszen, who was by then his father-in-law.²⁸ Johan Fassijn conducted a modest-sized business enterprise at Cologne between 1599 and 1604, but it is not clear from the available abstracted records what kind of business it was.²⁹ Jehan Fassing and Margeritte, *vefue de feu* [widow of the deceased] Leonard Leonardsen, were sponsors 11 December 1604 at the Cologne French Reformed Church.³⁰ Jan Fassin was dead by 21 October 1632, when Anna Leonard, widow of J[onckheer?] J. Fossyns was a sponsor by proxy for Sara Nevius, eldest daughter of Ds. Johannes Neeffius, who was baptized at Zoelen in Gelderland.³¹ Anne Lienart *femme de Jean Fassing* was a sponsor 28 August 1603 at the Cologne French Reformed Church,³² and Anne Lenards *femme de Jean Fassin* was a sponsor there 12 May 1607.³³ She had no daughter named Anna, so she must have been the Anna Fassing who was a sponsor for a child of [her daughter] Margaretha in 1610,³⁴ and the Anna Faßin who was a sponsor for another child of the same daughter in 1624.³⁵ Her daughter Maria was sponsor by proxy 10 January 1630 at Zoelen Reformed Church for Peter, son of Ds. Johannes Neeffius and Maria Becx.³⁶ There are many traceable descendants.

- ii. **HANS LENAERTS**, born about 1569 or 1570 (23 in 1593), reportedly in Luik (Liège),³⁷ and said to have died in 1624.³⁸ The first reference to him is in Amsterdam in 1589.³⁹ Hans Lenhartz, from Coellen, aged 23 years, residing in De Nes, was betrothed 6 November 1593 at the Amsterdam Reformed Oude Kerk to **MARIA COCKS**; the groom was accompanied by “Lenaert Lenaerts his father and Caerl Lenaerts his uncle,” and the bride, aged 22 years, and residing in De Halsteech, by “Heinrich Cocks her father and Niesgen Cock her mother.”⁴⁰ She was baptized 1 June 1570 at the Amsterdam Reformed Oude Kerk, daughter of Henrick Henricksz Cocks, of Amsterdam, by his wife Agnietgen, daughter of Jan Wilemsz Selijns, and died in 1627.⁴¹ Hans Lenaerts is called a *koopman* [merchant] in the baptismal record

²⁶ *Kölnische Konsistorial-Beschlüsse* (note 7), 201.

²⁷ *Kölnische Konsistorial-Beschlüsse* (note 7), 257. Frans Fassing was sponsor for one of Jan’s children in 1595 (Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials [note 15], 216a:53).

²⁸ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 225:35a.

²⁹ Gertrud Susanna Gramulla, *Handelsbeziehungen Kölner Kaufleute zwischen 1500 und 1650* (Köln & Wien: Böhlau Verlag, 1972), Anhang III, which supplies some quantitative data.

³⁰ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 221:10.

³¹ Kerkelijke registers, 1619–1811, Nederlands Hervormde Kerk, Zoelen (FHL #108,900).

³² Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 221:7.

³³ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 221:13a.

³⁴ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:13a.

³⁵ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:32.

³⁶ Kerkelijke registers, 1619–1811, Nederlands Hervormde Kerk, Zoelen (FHL #108,900).

³⁷ George Olin Zabriskie, “Anneke Jans in Fact and Fiction,” part 2, RECORD 104(1973):157–64; and Ir. J. G. Kam, “De Nieuwendijk van Oudebrugsteeg tot Zousteeg van 1543–1805,” *Amstelodamum Jaarboek* 53(1961):95–128; and “De Kaartenmaker Nicolaes Janneson en het Erfhuis van Jan Basse,” signed only “I. H. v. E.,” *Amstelodamum Maanblad* 76(1989):97–104. There is no known connection between him and the Amsterdam Lenaerts family of *hoedenmakers* [hat-makers].

³⁸ *Amstelodamum Jaarboek* 53(1961):100.

³⁹ As Hans Lenaerts, *kruidenier* [grocer], from Cologne but born at Luik, he appears in the aforementioned prosopographic database accompanying Gelderblom’s *Zuid-Nederlandse kooplieden en de opkomst van de Amsterdamse stapelmarkt* (note 8).

⁴⁰ The original of this record was not checked; text from A. D. de Vries, “Biografische aantekeningen, betreffende voornamelijk Amsterdamsche schilders, plaatsnijders, enz. en hunne verwanten,” pt. 2, *Oud Holland* 3(1885):135–60, at 158, apparently the first to publish it, although the presumed connection made by de Vries to an Amsterdam family of artists is probably mistaken.

⁴¹ Zabriskie, “Anneke Jans” (note 37) RECORD 104:161; William J. Hoffman, “Notes on Old Dutch-American Families—Selijns,” RECORD 63(1932):111–30; Frans C. M. Gouverneur, “Dutch Origins of Some Early Settlers and Allied Families,” part 6 (Webber, Cock), *New Netherland Connections*

of his eldest known child in 1594, and a *kruidenier* [grocer] in those of his next child in 1596, as well as in those of several subsequent children. He was an Amsterdam grocer, proprietor of De Peperbael on De Nieuwendijk, and his house on the Keizersgracht was known as *Saxenborch* [Saxenburg].⁴² Hans Lenards was a sponsor, perhaps by proxy, 13 December 1606 at the Cologne German Reformed Church for Maria, daughter of [his brother] Peter.⁴³ Among the twelve siblings of Maritgen Cocks were Annetgen [wife of Wolphert Webber the elder] and Sara [wife of Melchisech de Sandra, whose nephew Johan de Sandra would subsequently marry Hans Lenaert's niece, Maria Fassijn].⁴⁴ At the baptism of Hester Webber, daughter of Annetgen Cocks, 9 November 1614 at the Amsterdam Reformed Oude Kerk, the sponsors were Melchijssijdech Sandra, Maria Lenarts [Maritgen Cocks], and unmarried woman Marija Fasinj.⁴⁵ At the baptism of Annetgen's son Bartolomeus Webber 18 December 1616 at the same church, sponsors included Hans Lenerts.⁴⁶ Marya Kox was a sponsor 5 January 1617 at the same church for a child of [her husband's first cousin] Carel Lenaerts, son of Carel Lenaerts.⁴⁷ Hans Lenaerts and his wife had twelve children baptized at various Amsterdam churches between 1594 and 1612.⁴⁸

- iii. **MARIA LENAERTS**, born say 1573; living in 1617; Maria Lenerts was betrothed 26 July 1593 at the Cologne German Reformed Church to **WILHELM ENGELS** from Freyaltenhoven.⁴⁹ Sponsors of their children at the Cologne German Reformed Church included [her father] Lennert Lennertz,⁵⁰ [her mother or sister] Margret Lenarts with [her brother-in-law] Jan Fassin,⁵¹ and [her brother-in-law] Hans Neeff with [her niece] Maria Fassins.⁵² In turn Maria Lenerts was sponsor 13 November 1594 at the same church for Johannes, son of Sara Lenaerts and Johannes Neeff,⁵³ and Maria Engels was sponsor 13 December 1606 at the same church for Maria, daughter of Peter Lenaerts.⁵⁴ Wilhelm Engels was sponsor 22 February 1612 at the Cologne German Reformed Church for a child of [his wife's niece] Margaretha Fassijn and Henrich Grondt.⁵⁵ They had six children baptized at the Cologne German Reformed Church between 1595 and 1617,⁵⁶ but the family ceases to appear in the records of the Protestant churches of Cologne by the mid-1630s.
- iv. **SARA LENAERTS**, born say 1575, probably in Cologne; living in 1627; married by 1594 (child baptized in November 1594) **JOHANNES NEEFF** of Cologne, who was born say 1560–65 and living in 1612 (child baptized), but dead by 1624 (Margaretha called “surviving daughter” at her marriage).⁵⁷ They were the founders of the family whose name was Latinized to Neeffius and later came to be spelled Nevius. Johannes Neeff was in Cologne by 1 April 1586, when the consistory minutes of the Cologne German Reformed Church record that inquiry is to be made whether Hans Neff, *welcher zeugnuss von Antwerpen aufgelegt, dass er sein bekantnuss gethan hab, sich ver-*

9(2004):72–87, and part 7 (Selijns, Specht) 9:89–104. Maria was a maternal aunt of Wolphert Webber (the younger), the New Netherland immigrant, and both a grand-aunt and first cousin once removed to his nephew, Ds. Henricus Selyns, the New Netherland pastor and poet.

⁴² F. van den Hoek Ostende-Suyver, “De Veertienvoudige Restauratie voor het Howard Johnson Hotel bij de Westermarkt,” *Amstelodamum Maanblad* 57, no. 5 (Mei 1970):97–110, at 98.

⁴³ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:9.

⁴⁴ H. J. Koenen, “Junius-Clandt-de Sandra,” *De Navorscher* 48(1898):18–19.

⁴⁵ Amsterdam Baptisms (note 11), 5:122.

⁴⁶ Amsterdam Baptisms (note 11), 5:202.

⁴⁷ Amsterdam Baptisms (note 11), 5:204.

⁴⁸ Amsterdam Baptisms (note 11), 2:244; 38:489, 783; 3:236; 4:15; 39:17, 58, 99; 4:221; 39:176, 218, 276.

⁴⁹ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216a:22a.

⁵⁰ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216a:54a.

⁵¹ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:7.

⁵² Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:10a.

⁵³ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216a:47.

⁵⁴ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:9.

⁵⁵ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:15.

⁵⁶ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216a:54a; 216:7, 9, 10a, 13, 27.

⁵⁷ Alexander Dietz, *Frankfurter Handlungsgeschichte*, 4 volumes in 5 (Frankfurt, 1910–1925), 2:62, states, without citation, that he died in 1624.

halte, damit er der gemein nit gefehrlich sei [Hans Neff, who brings recommendation from Antwerp, is of good character and presents no threat to the congregation].⁵⁸ Hans Neeff was a sponsor in 1608 at the Cologne German Reformed Church for children of [Sara's sister] Maria.⁵⁹ Sara Neeff was a sponsor 12 August 1610 at the Cologne German Reformed Church for Anna Grondt, granddaughter of [her sister] Anna Lenaerts.⁶⁰ Johann Neef, *Handelsmann von Köln* obtained the burgher-right of Frankfurt 9 September 1602,⁶¹ which suggests that he had been resident in the town for at least a year prior to that date, and that his and his wife's subsequent baptismal sponsorships at Cologne may have been by proxy. They were at Frankenthal, in the Pfalz, for the baptism of their son Abraham in 1603, but their four youngest children were baptized at Frankfurt between 1604 and 1612. This underscores the unlikelihood of the statement—even though it is a contemporary one—that Johannes Neeff was of Amsterdam in 1608 and 1609.⁶² Johannes Neeff was a cloth merchant on the Töngesgasse in Frankfurt.⁶³ They have many descendants in Frankfurt.

Children of Johannes^B Neeff and Sara Lenaerts:⁶⁴

1. **JOHANNES^A NEEFF**, baptized 13 November 1594 at the Cologne German Reformed Church, child of Hans Neeff and Sara Lenert, sponsors Matthes Neef from Solingen, Herman von Mannheim, and [the mother's sister] Maria Lenerts;⁶⁵ died at Venlo in Zuid-Limburg, possibly in the plague of 1635-1636;⁶⁶ married 7 August 1625 at Kampen in Overijssel⁶⁷ **MARIA BECX**, who was baptized 1 April 1595 at the Cologne Dutch Reformed Church, child of Pieter Becks and Catharina Becks,⁶⁸ and died after 29 May 1651 (baptismal sponsor⁶⁹). She was probably a sister-in-law of Ds. Paulus de Leonardis, uncle of Johannes.⁷⁰ Johannes¹ Neeff, son of Johannes^A Neeff and Maria Bex, was the New Netherland immigrant.
2. **MARGARETHA NEEFF**, born say 1602 (estimating marriage at 21); Margaretha, surviving daughter of the merchant Hans Neffen, married 18 February 1623 at Frankfurt-am-Main **JOST VON LOËN**, merchant,⁷¹ who received the burgher-right of Frankfurt 12 December 1626,⁷² and was enobled with the rank of *Frei-*

⁵⁸ *Kölnische Konsistorial-Beschlüsse* (note 7), 279.

⁵⁹ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:10a.

⁶⁰ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:13a.

⁶¹ Alexander Dietz, *Frankfurter Bürgerbuch* (Frankfurt am Main: 1897), 63.

⁶² University record of his son Johannes (Honeyman, *Joannes Nevius* [note 2], 41), which appears to have been first published by N. C. Kist, "De Hervormde Gemeente te Zoelen in Nederbetuwe," *Kerhistorische Archief* 2(1859):442-64, and cited in Lieburg, "Vrouwen" (note 2), *Documentatieblad Nadere Reformatie*, 12:125, note 5.

⁶³ Dietz, *Frankfurter Handelsgeschichte* (note 57), 2:277.

⁶⁴ This replaces the family group in Dobson, "Nevius" (note 1), RECORD 136:35, except that details not requiring revision are not repeated here. The source for the baptisms of the four youngest children at Frankfurt-am-Main, and the marriages there of children 4 and 5, are IGI patron submissions and have not been compared with the original records, but are compatible with known information.

⁶⁵ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216a:47.

⁶⁶ Lieburg, "Vrouwen" (note 2), *Documentatieblad Nadere Reformatie*, 12:116.

⁶⁷ Dobson, "Nevius" (note 1), RECORD 136:36, incorrectly identified Kampen as being in Gelderland.

⁶⁸ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials 225:3

⁶⁹ Dobson, "Nevius" (note 1), RECORD 136:36.

⁷⁰ Maria and Catherine Bex, wife of Leonardis are thought to be sisters. Lieburg, "Vrouwen" (note 2), *Documentatieblad Nadere Reformatie* 12:116, citing Gemeente Archief Kampen, Momberboek 1626-1644, folio 120 verso, 2 January 1640, states that the widowed Maria Bex appointed her "brother-in-law" Paulus Leonarts as one of the guardians of her minor children, and deduced that Catharina was a sister of Maria Beks, mother of Sara Nevius, the religious poet. The relationship is also suggested in Wilhelmus à Brakel, introduction to Sara Nevius, *Een aandachtig leerling . . . van den Heere Jesus . . .* (Rotterdam, 1706), from a copy kindly supplied by Judith Stolk (titles of reprints vary greatly).

⁷¹ "Johann Michael von Loen, Goethe's Grossoheim," *Archiv für Frankfurts Geschichte und Kunst* 2 (1865):534-62, at 535, which misprints Neffen as Steffen.

⁷² Dietz, *Frankfurter Bürgerbuch* (note 61), 195.

- herr on 28 March 1635.⁷³ Joost von Loen of Frankfort served by proxy as a sponsor to Matthias, son of Margaretha's brother Johannes, baptized 10 August 1628 at Zoelen.⁷⁴
3. **ABRAHAM NEEFF**, baptized 23 January 1603 at the Frankenthal Dutch Reformed Church, child of Hans de Neef and Sara Lenaerts,⁷⁵ died 26 February 1641 at Frankfurt-am-Main; married 4 October 1634 at Frankfurt, **RACHEL LE MAHIEU**.⁷⁶
 4. **PIETER NEEFF**, said to have been baptized 28 June 1604 at Frankfurt-am-Main; died after 1648, when, as *Herr Peter Neefen, Vornehmen Kauff- und Handelsmann in Frankfort am Mayn*, the publisher Christophel le Blon dedicated to him a volume of accounts of sea-voyages;⁷⁷ said to have married 11 June 1633 at Frankfurt **ANNA MARIA DE BRAH**.
 5. **ANNA NEEFF**, said to have been baptized 22 July 1606 at Frankfurt; said to have married 13 April 1634 at Frankfurt **JOHANN PHILIPP WIERTS**, a metal smith on the Samstagsberg, who died in 1639.⁷⁸
 6. **CATHARINA NEEFF**, said to have been baptized 18 July 1609 at Frankfurt; no further record found.
 7. **SARA NEEFF**, said to have been baptized 12 February 1612 at Frankfurt; baptismal sponsor for Sara, daughter of Ds. Johannes Nevius, in 1632;⁷⁹ no further record found.
- v. **MARGARETHA LENAERTS**, born say 1577 (estimating 12 at first communion), probably in Cologne; Mergh, Lenhart Lenarts *dochter*, received her first communion 3 July 1589 at the Cologne German Reformed Church.⁸⁰ Margret Lenarts was a sponsor 3 October 1605 at the Cologne German Reformed Church for a child of Maria Lenaerts and Wilhelm Engels;⁸¹ Margareth Lenards was a sponsor 22 February 1612 at the same church for a child of Margaretha Fassijn and Henrich Grond.⁸² Either of these sponsors could have been this Margaretha's mother. If the sponsors were the mother, then the last definite mention of this Margaretha was the communion.
- vi. **PETER LENAERTS**, born say 1580 (estimating first communion at 13), probably in Cologne; living in 1606. Peter Lienarts *begert zum catechismo; ist zugelassen* [received his first communion] 26 July 1593 at the Cologne German Reformed Church, but his father is not named.⁸³ He married by say 1604 (child born in 1605) **MARIA** —. Sponsors of their children included [his brother-in-law] Jan Fassin, [his mother or sister] Margret Lenarts, [his brother] Hans Lenards, and [his sister] Maria Engels.⁸⁴ Peter Lenarts was a sponsor for a child of [his sister] Anna Lenaerts and Jan Fassijn in 1595.⁸⁵ Peter and Maria had two children baptized in 1605 and 1606 at the Cologne German Reformed Church.⁸⁶
- vii. **PAULUS DE LEONARDIS**, born about 1582–83 (21 in 1604), probably at Cologne, died in 1649 while minister at Kampen. Paulus Leonhardi, *Coloniensis* [from

⁷³ *Neues allgemeines deutsches Adels-Lexicon*, 9 volumes (Leipzig, 1859–1870), 5:609–10, which gives a comprehensive account of his descendants in the male line but is unreliable respecting the identifications of the wives.

⁷⁴ Dobson, "Nevius" (note 1), RECORD 136:38.

⁷⁵ Frankenthal baptisms, IGI controlled extraction batch J984291 (source FHL #488,246, Kirchenbuch 1565-1798, Evangelisch-Reformierte Kirche Frankenthal).

⁷⁶ Death and marriage from De Bary, "Altfrankfurter Hugenottenfamilien" (note 5), 73.

⁷⁷ Levinus Hulsius, *Die Vier und Zwantigste Schiffahrt* (Frankfurt am Mayn: Philipp Fivet, 1648). The dedication is published in *A Catalogue of Books Relating to the Discovery and Early History of North and South America, Forming a Part of the Library of E. D. Church*, 2 volumes (1907), 2:264–69.

⁷⁸ Dietz, *Frankfurter Handelsgeschichte* (note 57), 2:84, 133, where he is called Philipp Würtz.

⁷⁹ Dobson, "Nevius" (note 1), RECORD 136:38.

⁸⁰ *Kölnische Konsistorial-Beschlüsse* (note 7), 335.

⁸¹ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:7.

⁸² Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:15.

⁸³ *Kölnische Konsistorial-Beschlüsse* (note 7), 425.

⁸⁴ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:7, 9.

⁸⁵ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216a:53.

⁸⁶ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:7, 9.

Cologne], matriculated in 1596 at the Paedagogium, Herborn.⁸⁷ Paulus Leonardi de Leonhardis [Paulus son of Leonardus de Leonhardis], *Coloniensis*, matriculated in 1598 at the University of Zürich.⁸⁸ Paul. Leonh. *fil. de Leonardis, Coloniensis*, aged 21 years, entered the University of Leyden 24 June 1604, producing his thesis under the well-known professor Lucas Trelecius, Jr., in 1605.⁸⁹ He subsequently studied at Geneva and at Heidelberg and was *Pfarrer* at Schönau from 1608 to 1610 and at Bacharach-am-Rhein (about twenty-three miles west of Mainz) from 1610 to 1620.⁹⁰ Ds. Paulus de Leonardis, v.d.M.,⁹¹ accepted a post at Kampen in Overijssel, where a list of the pastors prepared in 1786 refers to him as “Paulus de Leonardus, *verdreeven van* [driven out of]⁹² Bacharach in de Keurvorstelijke Paltz [in the Rhineland Palatinate], *beroepen* [called (to this station)] 1620, *gestorven* [died] 1649.”⁹³ He married by say 1612 (eldest child born not later than 1613) **CATHARINA BECX**, who was born say 1591 (estimating marriage at 21) and buried 25 January 1646 at the Bovenkerk, Kampen, Overijssel, where a sandstone monument to her survives, but in very worn condition, the arms being illegible.⁹⁴ She was probably the sister of Maria Becx, the future wife of his nephew Ds. Johannes Neeffius,⁹⁵ hence daughter of *Sieur Pieter Becx of Cologne*.⁹⁶ If so, Paulus de Leonardis was both uncle to Ds. Johannes Neeffius and brother-in-law to the latter’s wife. D. Paulus Leonardus was a sponsor by proxy at the baptism 14 March 1627 at Zoelen Dutch Reformed Church for the eldest child of Johannes Neeffius.⁹⁷ Paulus de Leonardis and his wife had five children who reached adulthood. All four sons became ministers, while their daughter Catharina de Leonardis married Rev. Matthias Neeff, her probable first cousin (through Becx) and first cousin once removed (through Lenaerts).⁹⁸

- viii. **FRANS LENAERTS**, born say 1585, probably at Cologne; living in 1629, but dead by February of 1650 (called deceased in his son Jacob’s marriage record⁹⁹). Sponsors for two of his children include [his mother or sister] Margare[t]h Lenards and [his sister] Anna Fassing.¹⁰⁰ He married by say 1613 (first child born September 1614) **MECHTILDIS IMHOFF**. Widow Leonartz stated 5 August 1658 at the betrothal of her son François Leonarts, of Dordrecht, that he was legitimate and had been baptized.¹⁰¹ Mechtel Leonarts was a sponsor 10 May 1671 at the Cologne German Reformed Church for Catharina, daughter of [this Mechtel’s son] Abraham,¹⁰² but if this Mechtel were still living, she would have been about eighty. They had thirteen

⁸⁷ Gottfried Zedler and Hans Sommer, *Matrikel der Hohen Schule und des Paedagogiums zu Herborn* (Veröffentlichungen der historischen Commission für Nassau, 5, 1908), 212.

⁸⁸ G. Meyer von Knouau, “Das album in Schola Tigurina Studentium,” *Zürcher Taschenbuch, neue Folge* 6(1883):141–57, at 149.

⁸⁹ *Album Studiosorum Academiae Lugduno Batavae, 1575–1875* (’s-Gravenhage, 1875), column 75, and the entry for his son Abraham in J. P. de Bie, et al., *Biographisch Woordenboek van Protestantse Godgeleerden in Nederland*, 5 volumes (’s-Gravenhage, 1903–1943), 5:757–60, citing *Theses Theologicae de Sacerdote maxime Veteris Testamenti* in the library of the University of Leiden.

⁹⁰ *Biographisch Woordenboek* (note 89), 5:757–60; and Albert Rosenkrantz, *Das Evangelische Rheinland, ein rheinisches Gemeinde- und Pfarrerbuch* (1958), both references kindly supplied by Otto Schutte; also Friedrich Back, *Die Evangelische Kirche im Lande zwischen Rhein, Mosel, Nahe und Glan bis zum Behinn des dreißigjährigen Krieges*, 3 volumes in 6 (Bonn: 1874), 3(2):416.

⁹¹ *Verbi dei minister* [preacher of the word of God].

⁹² Probably by the outbreak of the Thirty Years’ War.

⁹³ P. Wiekeraad, *Kerken in Kampen* (Kampen: Van den Berg, 1990), 107–9, at 108. This was quoted, without citation, in a brief note on the de Leonardis family in *Heraldiek Bibliotheek* 9(1882):284–85 n. b.

⁹⁴ The inscription reads “CATHAR. B_X H[uisvrouw] | DE LEONARDI | A° 46 [i.e., 1646].” It is transcribed (page 93) and illustrated (page 210) in K. Schilder, *Inventaris van de zerken in de Bovenkerk* (Kamper genealogische en historische bronnen, deel 10, Kampen, 1988), copy supplied by Otto Schutte.

⁹⁵ See note 70.

⁹⁶ The 1625 marriage record of Maria Becx (Dobson, “Nevius” [note 1], RECORD 136:36) calls her father *Sieur Pieter Becx, borgher en coopman* [burgher and merchant].

⁹⁷ Kerkelijke registers, 1619–1811, Nederlands Hervormde Kerk, Zoelen (FHL #108,900).

⁹⁸ Dobson, “Nevius” (note 1), RECORD 136:38–41.

⁹⁹ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:55a.

¹⁰⁰ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:24a, 26a.

¹⁰¹ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216a:40.

¹⁰² Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:72a.

children baptized at the Cologne German Reformed Church between 1614 and 1629.¹⁰³ The surname was still found in records there in the early eighteenth century.

SASSEN BROECK NOTE

The village of Sassenbroeck, in the parish of Broekom, in the *arrondissement* of Tongeren, Limburg, Belgium, is about twenty miles west of the town of Luik in the neighboring province of the same name, where Margaretha van Sassenbroeck's son Hans was born, according to his marriage record. She may have come from Luik rather than Limburg, for as noted above, she is described as *Leodiensis* [from Luik] on her tombstone.

The surname van Sassenbroeck (or van Sassenbrouck) is sporadically found as early as 1171, the two versions occurring with about equal frequency.¹⁰⁴ Although the *seigneurie* from which it derives had passed into other hands by 1364,¹⁰⁵ there is ample evidence that the surname survived in the area well into the sixteenth century.

The parentage of Margaretha van Sassenbroeck, who must have been born around 1545, has not been determined, but her arms constitute an implicit claim of descent from the ancient van Sassenbroeck family.¹⁰⁶ Moreover, because these arms are composite in form, they must denote descent from a specific marriage that occurred no earlier than the fourteenth century, when the head of the house was still using the paternal coat in its primitive form.¹⁰⁷ This other coat quartered by Margaretha would not be unique even if its device could be stated with certainty, and so it is impossible on the available evidence to attribute it to a particular family.

¹⁰³ Cologne Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (note 14), 216:24a, 25a, 26a, 29, 30, 31, 32, 32a, 33a, 34, 34a (twins), 35a.

¹⁰⁴ Clémentine van Geel-Sproelants, *Une Seigneurie Lossaine: Sassenbroeck et ses Seigneurs* (Tongrès: 1932), a small publication that contains some useful background material but makes very brief work of the early seigneurs, ignoring the heraldic evidence and failing to cite relevant prior literature such as the list of early seigneurs in "Notice historique sur Brouckom," *Bulletin de l'Institut Archéologique Liégeois* 9(1868):64-78, at 70-74. For the date of the first known seigneur, Guillaume, mentioned in 1171, she cites Jos Coenen, *Limburgsche Oorkonden* (Masseik: 1932), #488, which I have not seen. Her claim that Guillaume mentioned in 1235, sixty-four years later, is the same man is doubtful.

¹⁰⁵ By 1364 the seigneurie was in the possession of Thierry de Hex *alias* de Sprolant, who is unconvincingly described by van Geel-Sproelants as a cadet of the original house of Sassenbroeck. It was later owned by yet another family before its dissolution in the eighteenth century.

¹⁰⁶ The arms impaled by three of Margaretha's grandsons are blazoned, according to Otto Schutte, as 1 and 4, *or*, a millrind *sable*; 2 and 3, *argent*, a clover-leaf (the tincture of the last being given in two cases *sino-ple* and in one as *azure*). J. B. Rietstap, *Armorial Générale* (Gouda, 1861), 928, gives for Sassenbroeck 1 and 4, *or*, a millrind *sable*; 2 and 3, *argent*, a tree *sino-ple*. The clover-leaf and tree are prone to confusion.

¹⁰⁷ Confirmation that the arms in the first quarter of the composite coat are the paternal ones comes from the statement of the fourteenth-century writer Jacques de Hemricourt, in his *Miroir des nobles de la Hesbaye*, that "ce seigneur de Sassenbroeck portait d'or à un chef [sic] de sable"; this is quoted in "Notice historique sur Brouckom" (note 104), at 71.