

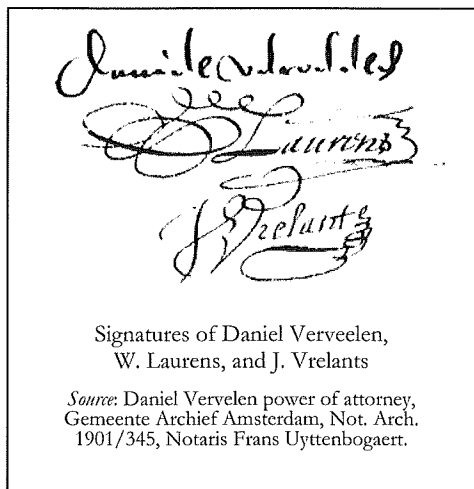
**VAN DONGEN:
A NEW NAME IN THE ANCESTRY OF THE VERVEELEN FAMILY**

BY JOHN BLYTHE DOBSON, FASG*

A power of attorney in which the New Netherland colonist Daniel Verveelen mentions his inheritance from a great-grandmother was abstracted in *Noord-Amerika Chronologie*.¹ On examination of the original, this document, though unusual in reaching back so many generations, proved in other respects to be quite typical, consisting mostly of stock legal phrases. Thus, only a brief abstract is required for the present purposes:

Daniel Vervelen,² *jonghman* [unmarried man], *staende op zyn vertreck omme te doen een reyse nae Nieu-Nederlandt* [preparing to make a journey to New Netherland], grants power of attorney to the *Eersame* [worthy] Jacob de Lange, merchant in Amsterdam, his uncle, to collect a bequest from the estate of his great-grandmother *Joffi*: [Madame] Catharina Jans van Dongen. And furthermore, to recover outstanding debts on his behalf.

Witnessed by Guilliam Laurens and Joannes Vrelandt, *inwoonders deser stede* [residents of this state, meaning Amsterdam], this 17th day of May *xvi Achtenwyftich* [1658].



[signed:]

Daniel Verveelen

G Laurens

J Vrelants

F: Utenbogaert Notaris

1658³

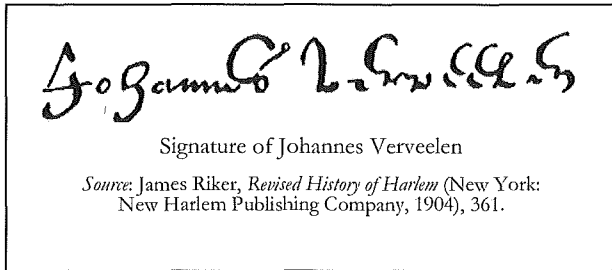
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¹ Thanks are due to former *RECORD* editor Henry B. Hoff, FASG, for bringing this entry to my attention. The *Noord-Amerika Chronologie 1598-1825* [NAC] is a collection of brief abstracts of notarial records pertinent to the Dutch in North America found in the Municipal Archives of Amsterdam. The NAC is available on microfilm at the New York State Library and the New York Public Library.

² The notary spelled his surname Vervelen in the document, but Daniel signed it as Verveelen.

³ Daniel Vervelen power of attorney, Gemeente Archief Amsterdam, Not. Arch. 1901/345, Notaris Frans Uyttenbogaert (written "Utenbogaerd" in the body of the document). I am grateful to staff member Goran Pravić for supplying a copy of the document.

The signature of Daniel Verveelen resembles that of his father, Johannes Verveelen, particularly in the extremely tall and exaggeratedly disjointed *e*, which rises well above the *l*. (The final character, resembling a backward ampersand, is an abbreviation for “en.”)



The power-of-attorney document, which says Daniel was intending to leave for New Netherland, contains no hint of the fact that Daniel Verveelen had previously lived there. Yet as Daniel Veveele, he appeared in a New Amsterdam tax list dated 12 October 1655.⁴ This lends credence to Riker’s statement that Daniel, “when a mere boy, preceded his father to New Netherland, under the care, we believe, of Dominic Gideon Schaets, one of whose daughters he married.”⁵ The rest of the family apparently came later, and Daniel’s father Joannes Verveelen “enroll[ed] his name, April 24, 1657, among the burghers” of New Amsterdam.⁶

Nor does the document give a sense of the date of death of the great-grandmother from whom Daniel had inherited the bequest he stood to receive. The fact that he was not already in possession of it suggests either that he was not the immediate heir, or that he may not yet have attained the required age. The date of his birth has not been found, but his parents were married in September 1636.⁷ Thus in 1658 he was still well under the age of majority (25 years under Dutch law). However, he was no mere child, for his own marriage lay less than five years in the future.⁸

Recent discoveries relating to Daniel’s maternal grandmother, Paulina van Oudenhoven, supply likely names for a previously missing set of great-grandparents. His ancestry may therefore be tentatively summarized as shown in the following chart:⁹

⁴ This tax list, dated 12 Oct. 1655, is transcribed in Berthold Fernow, ed., *Records of New Amsterdam from 1653 to 1674 Anno Domini*, 7 vols. (New York: Knickerbocker Press, 1897), 1:368.

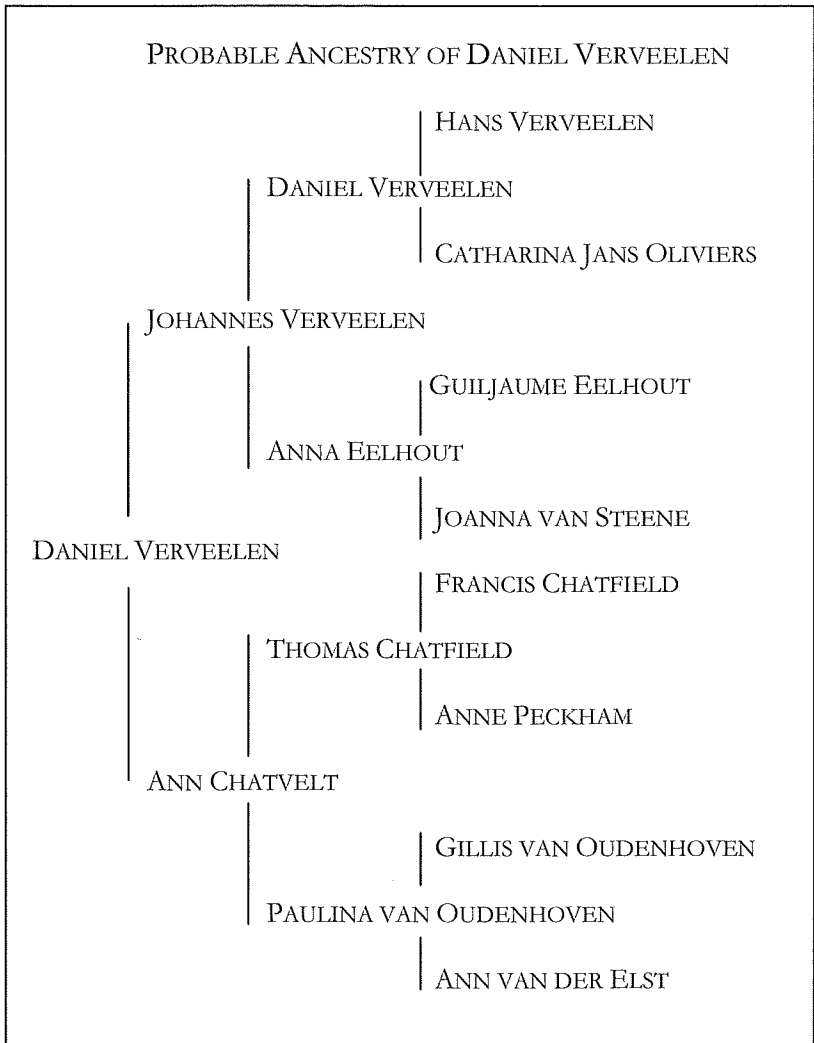
⁵ James Riker, *Revised History of Harlem* (New York: New Harlem Publishing Co., 1904), 95.

⁶ Riker, *Revised History of Harlem* (note 6), 679. This date is confirmed by Carolyn Nash, “Small Burghers of New Amsterdam: New Documents, New Names,” RECORD 141 (2010): 37.

⁷ For this date see John Blythe Dobson, “Van Oudenhoven: Some New Ancestry of the Verveelen family,” RECORD 144 (2013): 39, correcting my earlier writings.

⁸ Although the date of Daniel’s marriage does not seem to be known, his eldest child was born on 2 April 1663, according to Riker, *Revised History of Harlem* (note 6), 681, without documentation.

⁹ For more information on Verveelen and Eelhout see John Blythe Dobson, “The ver Veelen family in Cologne and Amsterdam,” RECORD 133 (2002): 123–36, 293 (addendum); also RECORD 135 (2004): 284–85 (further addendum). For more on the Chatfield family see the same author, “Note on the Family of Thomas Chatfield, Great-uncle of the Three Chatfield Brothers of Connecticut, and Probable Father-



Daniel Verveelen's chosen representative—Jacob de Lange, husband of Maria Verveelen—came from his father's side of the family, suggesting that the great-grandmother from whom the inheritance derived likewise belonged to that side. This consideration, together with the apparent absence of another Catharina among Daniel's great-grandmothers, would seem to imply that Catharina Jans van Dongen was identical with Catharina Jans Oliviers. Does this then raise doubt as to the maiden surname of the wife of Hans Verveelen? Not necessarily. During her marriage to him she is named as Oliviers in three of their children's baptismal records (1595, 1599, 1611), and never as van

in-law of Joannes Verveelen of New Amsterdam [*recte* New Harlem]," *The Genealogist* 22 (2008): 212–20. For more on the van Oudenhoven family see Dobson, "Van Oudenhoven" (note 7).

Dongen.¹⁰ If van Dongen were an additional surname, one might expect to find evidence of such a form as “Oliviers van Dongen,” but none has been found in published sources.¹¹

The next possibility to be considered is that van Dongen could be a surname acquired by Catharina through a marriage subsequent to that with Hans Verveelen.¹² While no such remarriage has been found in the index to Amsterdam marriage intentions,¹³ there is no obvious chronological impediment to this possibility. Hans Verveelen was still alive on 6 November 1629, when he purchased property on the Reguliershof in Amsterdam.¹⁴ But Catharina was still alive on 2 December 1632, when as “Catryna Jans dr” she served as a baptismal sponsor to her granddaughter Catalyn van Brussel, daughter of Gillis van Brussel and Anna Verveelen,¹⁵ and unless the terms of her will were extraordinarily vague or prescient, she was still alive at the birth of her great-grandson Daniel Verveelen, no earlier than 1637. But it is not necessary to suppose that she lived to a very advanced age; for as previously noted, she may have died long before May 1658.

A survey of published literature for a woman named Catharina Jans with a van Dongen husband has revealed only one who died in the required interval. Catharina Jans Smits, wife of Gerrit Corsten van Dongen, died on 10 March 1654 (age not stated), and was buried in the Dutch Reformed Church of Sprang in Noord-Brabant.¹⁶ However, apart from the difficulty that such an identification would introduce yet another unexplained surname (Smits), the Sprang churchbooks reveal that Gerrit and Catharina had a child baptized in 1648.¹⁷ Thus, this Catharina could not possibly be the same as Catharina Jans Oliviers, who was giving birth to children of Hans Verveelen in the 1590s.

Next, assuming the woman in question is indeed Catharina Jans Oliviers, it must be considered whether the words “van Dongen” could refer to a place

¹⁰ Baptisms of Daniel Vervelen, Lucia vander Veelen, and Annetty Verveelen, Landesarchiv Nordrhein-Westfalen Personenstandsarchiv Brühl, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials (*Dopen, Trouwen, en Begraven* [DTB]), Dutch Reformed Church, Cologne, 225:2a, 5a, 14, images published on DVD as *Köln—niederländische-reformierte Gemeinde* (Edition Brühl, Vol. 11), by Patrimonium Transcriptum Verlags GmbH, Bonn. The entries give her name as Lincken [a nickname for Catharina] Oliviers, Catharina Oliviers, and Catharina Ollieviers, respectively.

¹¹ Materials consulted on this point (as well as for other aspects of this article) include the Google Book Search, Early Dutch Books Online (<http://www.earlydutchbooksonline.nl>), a full-text search of the digitizations of the Huygens Instituut voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis (<http://www.historici.nl/tetro>), and over 2,000 volumes of digitized Dutch and Belgian genealogical journals available in the Internet Archive (<http://www.archive.org>) and other repositories or commercially on CD-ROM.

¹² This possibility was suggested to me by Henry B. Hoff, FASG.

¹³ See Index to Ondertrouwregisters, 1565–1811, *Stadsarchief Amsterdam* (<https://stadsarchief.amsterdam.nl/archieven/archiefbank/indexen/ondertrouwregisters>).

¹⁴ Hans Vervelen land purchase, *Transportakten voor 1811* [Land Transfers/Transactions before 1811], Gemeente Archief Amsterdam, NL-SAA-21614167, online abstract, *Stadsarchief Amsterdam* (https://amsterdam.nl/archieven/archiefbank/indexen/transportakten_voor_1811/zoek/index.nl.html).

¹⁵ Catalyn van Brussel baptism, Gemeentearchief Amsterdam, Amsterdam DTB, 41:227.

¹⁶ P. C. Bloys van Treslong Prins, *Genealogische en Heraldische Gedenkwaardigheden in en uit de Kerken der Provincie Noord-Brabant*, 2 vols. (Utrecht: A. Oosthoek, 1924), 2:176.

¹⁷ Mariken [Van Dongen] baptism (child of “Gerhardt Corsten vader, Catelein Jans Smidts moeder”), 5 July 1648, Brabants Historisch Informatie Centrum, Den Bosch, Dutch Reformed Church, Sprang-Capelle DTB, 1a:89 verso, digital image, *Van Papier Naar Digitaal* (http://www.vpnd.nl/nb/sprang_dtb.html). Gerrit survived Catharina and married again, the record this time using his surname (*Gerhardt Corsten van Dongen, w[edim]naar van Cateleijn Jans Smidt, van Sprang, ende Elisabetha Leister, j[on]ge d[ochter] van Rbenen, wonende in den Haegh [Den Haag], hebben in den Haag ondertrouwt den 26 feb.*), Dutch Reformed Church, Sprang-Capelle DTB, 1b:149 verso, digital image, *Van Papier Naar Digitaal* (http://www.vpnd.nl/nb/sprang_dtb.html).

of residence rather than a surname. Preceding a mere place-name, well-trained notaries tended to avoid the ambiguous *van* and to use instead a preposition or phrase specifically meaning “residing in.” However, this particular document does not mention enough persons to establish whether or not this convention has been observed. There is only one place in the Netherlands named Dongen, which is near Breda in Noord-Brabant.¹⁸ But although some material relating to the surrounding area has been transcribed or indexed, it does not relate strongly to Dongen, nor has it yielded a Catharina Jans or Catharina Oliviers of the right time period.¹⁹ Attempting to search beyond transcribed or indexed records seems of dubious value, as there is no definite indication that Catharina ever lived at Dongen, and unless her name occurred in conjunction with that of a known member or associate of the Verveelen family, it would be impossible to be sure the right person had been found.

Finally, there are other more tenuous possibilities for the identity of Catharina van Dongen, such as a step-great-grandmother or even (supposing an elision in the record) a great-great-grandmother, but our present knowledge of the Verveelen and associated families is insufficient to permit any consideration of such alternatives.

While it is frustrating that the van Dongen association remains unexplained, the long-forgotten document that mentions it is a welcome and important find, directly confirming key points in previous accounts of the Verveelen family.

¹⁸ Abraham Jacob van der Aa, *Aardrijkskundig Woordenboek der Nederlanden*, 13 vols. (Gorinchem: J. Noorduyn, 1839–1850), 3:427–29.

¹⁹ For the identification of suitable material, I consulted Digitale Bronbewerkingen Nederlands en België (<http://www.geneaknowhow.net/digi/bronnen.html>), as well as the online collections at Stadsarchief Breda (<http://www.isis.breda.nl>) and Regionaal Archief Tilburg (<http://www.regionaalarchieftilburg.nl>).