

The  
*Vanguard*



*The Newsletter of the van Aersdalen Family Association*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS	
(ALL ARTICLES BY CRV UNLESS NOTED)	
MIGRATION TO CONEWAGO .....	1
AN 1850 VAN SERMON - David L. Van Arsdale .....	2
GENNET VANARSDALLEN'S WILL -V. Fyfe .....	3
CONFEDERATE VANS .....	5
SYMON'S EARLY NEW NETHERLAND DAYS .....	6
THE OLDEST VAN ? .....	9
THE "DELTA PROJECT" .....	10
SYMON'S MISSING DAUGHTER.....	11
QUERIES .....	12
THE FAMILY ASSOCIATION .....	13
ANCESTOR CHARTS .....	15
FLATBUSH DUTCH CHURCH RECORDS .....	15
SUBMISSIONS POLICY.....	15
FAMILY NEWS .....	16

## MIGRATION TO CONEWAGO

The Conewago settlement represents the major springboard for many of the Vans whose 18th century ancestry takes them to Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. In order to determine who left Conewago, we have to look at who moved to and raised families at Conewago. Records are sporadic due to the frontier nature of this settlement. Domines, the clergy of the Dutch Reformed Church, initially shuttled between New Jersey and Conewago to serve their former parishioners.

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the first issue of the *Vanguard*. This newsletter is for descendants of Symon Jansz van Aersdalen, who left Holland in 1653 as a 26-year old Flemish potter and died in 1710 as a respected leader of the New Netherland Dutch community and the progenitor of a large, proud family.

We welcome submissions, especially in digital format, but cannot polish or edit very much. We try to be as accurate as possible with the printed data and lineages, but we cannot guarantee the reliability of *interpreted* records, nor do we rigorously verify information submitted for publication. If you find errors, please notify us.

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CONEWAGO CEMETERY, AUGUST 1990

## CONEWAGO (CONT. FROM P. 1)

This Dutch settlement was erected on the western edge of Scotch-Irish communities in what is present-day Adams County, Pennsylvania. Situated about halfway between Gettysburg and York, this area was opened up in the mid 1760s as prime farm land. As Frederick W. Bogert wrote in "The Conewago Settlement" (*De Halve Maen*, Fall 1978), "The earliest deed for land in the area, to a member of the Van Arsdale family, is dated 1768 ..." However, Dutch patronymic practice resulted in a profusion of many Van Arsdals with the same Christian name. CRV estimated that, by 1783, there were at least 6 Simons, 4 Corneliuses, 2 Abrahams, 4 Johns, 5 Isaacs, and possibly 5 Garrets. The following article is a work in progress attempting to straighten out "who's who".

Simon Cornelisz Van Arsdalen (1697-1788) and his family lived near New Brunswick, New Jersey from about 1723 until about 1766. (Sources: baptismal data, Proc. NJHS, vol. 11 (1926); SCHQ vol. 4, #3; GMNJ vol. 17, #1). Then he and his six sons, and probably his wife and two daughters, moved with a large group of Jersey Dutchmen to a settlement outside present-day Gettysburg, PA. His brother, Jan Cornelisz, had died in 1750 and left behind four sons, at least three of whom accompanied their uncle Simon to Conewago. Simon Cornelisz wrote his will on December 3, 1787 and appears to have died in 1788. An inventory of his estate was taken October 9, 1788, presented to the court April 27th, 1789, and his will probated April 29th, 1789. This data has been preserved at the

## CONEWAGO (CONT. FROM P. 4)

## AN 1850 VAN SERMON

This is **Jacob R. Van Arsdale's** first sermon at the Tyre Reformed Church in Tyre, New York, given on December 13, 1850. I have always been told the story that at age 41 he came from Plainfield, New Jersey to the Finger Lakes area of New York with his wife, Martha Dawes and their five children. They soon had seven more children. He served as the church's first "called" pastor and retired after 20+ years of ministry. He is buried at the church cemetery there in Tyre, New York across the road from the church. His son James, married Hannah Avery and their son Arthur was my grandfather. My father William Avery Van Arsdale is now 89 and a retired American Baptist Minister. I am now 51 and serve as a Presbyterian Pastor.

- Rev. David L. Van Arsdale, c/o John Knox Presbyterian Church, 25200 Lorain Road, North Olmstead, OH 44070 [Dvanarsdal@aol.com](mailto:Dvanarsdal@aol.com)

Every relation which is formed between man and man is attended with mutual obligations and duties. It is eminently so with the relation between the pastor and people of his charge. You have just heard a delineation of those duties which devolve upon your pastor you will now be with me while I present to you some of those which this relationship imposes upon you.

I need scarcely remind you that it is incumbent upon you to contribute freely and liberally to his temporal support. As he is to devote himself wholly to the ministry, reason as well as revelation clearly point out the obligation resting upon you to free him from worldly cares by supplying his temporal wants. It is a most reasonable thing, that they who sow unto spiritual things shall reap your carnal things. God has ordained that they who preach the Gospel shall live of the Gospel. But on this subject I need not enlarge. Your own convictions of duty as well as your own interest will endure (I have no doubt) a prompt discharge of this duty.

But let me say to you further as it is his duty to preach to you the gospel of Christ you should hear him and hear him with respect by which I mean, you should ever be ready to receive and practice those doctrines and duties of religion which he dispense from time to time from the word of God. I do not say that you are to believe all you hear from the pulpit, error and inconsistency has originated from this source. But you should receive with respect all

## SERMON (CONT. FROM P. 2)

which your pastor shall deduce and prove from the infallible word.

If he shall show you from the scriptures that it is the duty of every Christian to pray to God daily and in secret, then let every one be careful to worship God in their closets. If he shall show from the scriptures that it is the duty of every Christian head of a family to erect the family altar, then go and worship God in your family. If he shall show from the scriptures that it is your duty to contribute to the support of the Gospel abroad and to send the means of salvation to the heathen then go and act in consistency with this truth.

This respect you owe to all the messages of Gospel. It seems to be often the case that while professed Christians show respect for the messenger, so far as the conduct is concerned they show little or no respect for the message they deliver. They hear it, as if it was any thing else but the message of God and as if it was a matter of no consequence whether they paid regard to it or not.

Like those to whom Ezekiel was sent of whom God declared (Ezekiel 33:31-32) "They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before me as my people and they hear thy words, but they will not do them. And lo thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words but they do them not."

Your minister will not feel satisfied, although you should be most liberal in providing for his temporal support and comfort, unless you pay respect to the message he is commissioned of God to deliver to you and receive not the grace of God in vain. Hear him therefore attentively and with sincere desire to profit by his instructions and to be built up in the faith of the Gospel.

Let your attendance on his ministrations be regular and constant, that his heart may be encouraged and his zeal may be inspired by your habitual presence in the Sanctuary and respectful attention to the words of the Gospel. Let the same respect be shown to his ministrations in your families. If he is faithful in discharge of his duty he will not only preach to you from the pulpit and on the Sabbath day but he will visit from house to house, inquire into your state, and that of your children, and impart a word of exhortation or instruction or encouragement or reproof.

Receive him cordially, be frank in laying open to him the state of your mind on the subject of religion, acquaint him with your trials your hopes or discouragements that he may know to speak a word

## WILL OF GENNET, aka JANNETJE VANARSDALLEN

The will of Gennet Vanarsdallen (sp?) is in Will Book A, p. 1-- the first will recorded in Montgomery Co. OH. It is dated June 6, 1802, recorded Feb. 1808. It was produced in court Aug. term 1805. As she resided in Hamilton Co., possibly the will was produced there, as well. - Virginia Fyfe, 10755 Morningside Drive, Tucson, AZ 85338 [wilclaire@email.msn.net](mailto:wilclaire@email.msn.net)

"In the name of God Amen This sixth day of June one thousand eight hundred and two I Gennet Vanarsdallen of Hamilton County Territory of the United States, North West --- being sick in body but of good and perfect memory do -- declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following first my body --mit to the Earth to be decently buried at the -- of my Executors hereafter named and of my temporal Estate and such good Chatels and Debts as it hath pleased god to bestow upon me I do order and give and dispose the same in Manner and form following: That is to say I give and bequeath to my Beloved son William Vanarsdallen's [here, the words "my son" are crossed out] Children my Cow and and five [fire?] irons and Large dutch Bible one pot and half Bushel Secondly my beloved son John Vanarsdallen's son Cornelius my table one heifer and my trunk Thirdly to my beloved Daughter Margaret Dilts Daughters the Remainder of my personal property to be made use of by my Daughter Margaret after my Decease until her Daughters are of age Subject Nevertheless to the Inspection and Control of the executor and I hereby make and appoint my Beloved son John Vanarsdallen full and sole executor of this my last will and Testament Hereby Revoking disannulling and making void all former Wills and Bequests by me made and Declaring this only to be my Last will and testament. In Witness whereof I have affixed my hand and seal this day and year above written.

Jene Vanarsdallen (her mark) Witness Present

Peter Sunderland (his mark)

Richard Sunderland (his mark)

James Snowden"

## **SERMON (CONT. FROM P. 3)**

of reason suited to your respective circumstances. Endeavor also to afford him all possible cooperation in his efforts to instruct your children in the truths of the Gospel and to promote their spiritual interest.

I shall only mention on this occasion one more duty, for which I would solicit your earnest consideration. I refer to the duty of praying for your pastor. I consider this most important and I believe that the degree of faithfulness with which you discharge this duty will give a coloring to all others. It was the prayer of the inspired Apostle to the church over which by divine authority he may be commissioned to preside and it is the prayer of every Christian minister to the church over whom God has placed him. Brethren, pray for us. Your minister will be encouraged in his work when he knows his people are thus engaged.

Like Moses on the mount, he will be upheld by the hands of prayer. He will be enabled to go through the labors and toils of his pastoral duties and the various engagements of his office with courage and insight when he is surrounded by devout men who bear him up in their affectionate remembrance in private retirement in the family circle. When you meet for prayer if you knew how much of the true comfort, of the holy courage, of the sacred joy, of the Christian minister is connected with the spirit of prayer for him and for the success of his labors, you would never be weary in well doing in this respect, you would never forget him.

You would not remember him would he be anxious that you should remember him on the ground of any merely personal or selfish considerations, but he is anxious you should remember him because in proportion to the degree of your zeal and sincerity and constancy in this work. You will listen to him with affection his doctrine will distill as the dew and drop as the rain on the tender grass and your hearts will be open to receive the ingrafted word.

He is anxious you should remember him because he knows, Paul may plant and Apollos water but God giveth the increase. The man who comes to the Sanctuary in the spirit of cautious capricious feeling, desiring to make a minister an offender for a word, is one who has not presented for him earnest supplication.

The man who sits before the pulpit, indifferent and unmoved unconscious of the importance and authority of the truth presented his notice and hears as though he heard not that man has not the spirit of earnest and fervent prayer.

If he hath, there would be vitality, there would be

deep and affectionate interest, there would be earnest concern to profit faith would be mixed with what he hears, there would be a right construction put on every explanation given.

If you are diligent in captivating a spirit of prayer for your pastor, then while there will be in you a grateful regard to the authority of God and word, as the only rule of doctrine and precept there will also be that humility, that teachableness which is always found connected with spiritual success and with social edification.

But all this depends on the spirit of prayer among you and if God is to be honored in this sanctuary by this assembled people, if you are to comfort the heart of your minister, if he is to succeed in the hallowed work to which he has devoted himself, you must enter into the spirit of the Apostolic injunction and pray for him that the word of God may have free course and be glorified.

Your own interest is intimately connected with it. Remember then Brethren the obligation which the relation now formed imposes upon you. Look to the hills when cometh your help. Seek earnestly for the approbation and aid of the great head of the church, that this relation may prove a blessing to you and your children and may be for the promotion of truth and godliness in your midst.

## **CONEWAGO (CONT. FROM P. 2)**

York County Courthouse.

The Van Arsdalens constituted a large family at Conewago. Simon's eldest son, Cornelius (1723-1787), had four sons (Simon, Luke, William, and John) and three daughters (Ida, Anne, and Margaret). Dutch patronymics would suggest that he had a fifth son named Cornelius but this has not been proved. Cornelius died in mid 1787 and his will is on file at York. The will mentions all of these children but the supposed Cornelius Jr.; there apparently were no grandchildren as of April 16, 1787. Sons Simon (1746-?) and Luke (1750-1825) later moved to the Dutch colony in Kentucky; sons William (1765-?)

**CONEWAGO (CONT. FROM P.4)**

and John (1752-1813) accompanied Cornelius' second wife Jenne or Janet/Jannetje (Cornel) to Montgomery County, OH. Jenne died in 1805 and filed the first will in Montgomery County. It appears that none of Cornelius' children stayed at Conewago.

Simon's next eldest son was Garret (born 1725). It is believed that he moved to Conewago although solid evidence of his whereabouts after 1768 has not been established. Garret had five sons and possibly six daughters: Kort, Simon, Antje, and Nelle by his first wife, Lucretia van Voorhees; and Helena (possibly), Cornelius, Garret, Marya, Alte, Abraham, and Lucretia by his second wife, Marya Dorland. Kort (1749-?) stayed in New Jersey, but at least the other four sons moved to Conewago. Of these, Simon (1750-1820) moved on to Kentucky while Cornelius (1759-1847), Garret (1760-?) , and Abraham (1765-1824) apparently moved to the Shepherdstown, (West) Virginia area and the Dutch colony there. The elder Garret could have moved to either locale, but he was deceased by the time his father penned his will on December 3, 1787. Cornelius moved to Greene County, PA about 1788 and then on to Knox County, OH about 1810 where he died. Abraham moved to the Great Cacapon area of present-day Morgan County, West Virginia and raised his family there. The younger Garret's migration has not yet been determined (western PA?), but it also appears that none of the elder Garret's children stayed in the Conewago area.

Simon's third son, Simon (b. 1732), died at Conewago in 1783. He died intestate, but his

**CONFEDERATE VANS**

Taken from Volume XV of "The Roster of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865", edited by Janet B. Hewett, and published by Broadfoot Publishing Company, Wilmington, NC in 1996.

Vanandale, J. VA 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Co. D  
 Vanandell, Jeremiah VA 7<sup>th</sup> Cav. Co. K  
 Vanansdale, Ulysses MO 8<sup>th</sup> Cav. Co. C 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
 Van Arsdale, Cornelius C. KY Cav. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn.  
 (Dortch's) Co. B  
 Vanarsdale, Isaac M. KY 2<sup>nd</sup> Cav. Co. F  
 Vanarsdale, J. VA 67<sup>th</sup> Mil. Co. A  
 Vanarsdale, John KY 6<sup>th</sup> Cav. Co. D  
 Vanarsdale, Lucas MS Nash's Co. (Leake  
 Rangers)  
 Vanarsdale, Robert W. KY 6<sup>th</sup> Cav. Co. B  
 Vanarsdale, R. V. TX 13<sup>th</sup> Vol. 2<sup>nd</sup> Co. B  
 Vanarsdale, William KY 6<sup>th</sup> Cav. Co. G  
 Vanarsdall, J. K. TX 5<sup>th</sup> Cav. Co. A  
 Vanarsdell, J. M. KY Morgan's Men Co. E  
 Vanarsdell, Milton KY 9<sup>th</sup> Cav. Co. F 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt.  
 Vanarsdell, R. C. MS 6<sup>th</sup> Inf. Co. C Sgt.  
 Vanartsdalen, George SC Arty. Bachman's Co.  
 (German Lt. Arty.) Cpl.  
 Van Artsdalen, G. W. SC Arty. Bn. Hampton  
 Legion Co. B Cpl.  
 Vanausdal, Thomas MO Inf. Perkins' Bn. Co. A  
 Vannorstale, Thomas LA 20<sup>th</sup> Inf. Co. F  
 Vannoshdall, -- MO Cav. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reg. St. Grd. Co. F  
 Van Orsdale, Michael LA 11<sup>th</sup> Inf. Co. I  
 Van Orsdale, Thomas J. LA 11<sup>th</sup> Inf. Co. I  
 Vanorsdoll, Isaac M. VA 89<sup>th</sup> Mil. Co. B  
 Vanorsdoll, William VA 89<sup>th</sup> Mil. Co. A  
 Vanorsdoll, William G. VA 89<sup>th</sup> Mil. Co. B  
 Van Osdall, E. LA 4<sup>th</sup> Inf. Co. K  
 Van Osdall, J. LA 4<sup>th</sup> Inf. Co. K  
 Van Osdall, M. LA 4<sup>th</sup> Inf. Co. K  
 Van Osdol, Henry 1<sup>st</sup> Choctaw & Chickasaw Mtd.  
 Rifles Co. A 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

## SYMON'S EARLY NEW NETHERLAND DAYS

(partially excerpted from "Six Hundred Years of Van Arsdale Family History" by Charles R. Vanorsdale (Copyright 1997))

The earliest known record of Symon van Aersdalen in Nieu Amersfoort is dated October 12, 1655. On that Tuesday morning in City Hall, Director- General Pieter Stuyvesant and his Burgomasters and Schepens began collection of a "voluntary contribution and taxation" of the citizens, "each according to his condition, state and circumstances" to erect a wall to safeguard the town from Indians. One of the lower contributions was from "Symon Jansen", who gave 10 florins, and was listed as "dwelling at Clyn Aerts". Symon did not yet own a house, and apparently rented or earned his keep from this Clyn Aerts. Considering that most of those citizens taxed paid anywhere from three to ten times that amount, Symon was not yet on his feet in the New World. (Incidentally, where that wall once stood is now known as Wall Street.)

Who was Clyn Aerts, the man who took in our ancestor? The name "Clyn" is nowhere else to be found in Dutch records except in the same source as the tax record. A scholar of New Netherland history believes this Clyn to be the same as Ryn Aertsen, or Reynier Aertsen who may have emigrated with Symon in 1653, and therefore may have been a friend or master to apprentice Symon.

A problem with early records of New Netherland is the lack of adopted surnames. Typical documentation would list "Symon Jansen" or "Jan

### CONEWAGO (CONT. FROM P. 5)

inventory and administration bond are on file at York. His estate was handled by his brothers Abraham and Cornelius. It is possible that his older brother Garret may have moved away or even died by this time.

Simon (1732-1783) had five sons (including one who died young) and one daughter. His first son, Simon, must have died young because father Simon and his second wife (Eleanor Petersen) had another Simon baptised at Conewago. His other sons Cornelius(1759-?), Isaac (1762-?), Peter (1770-?), and Simon (1778-?) may have moved away from Conewago. Tax data suggests that they may have moved to the Hampshire County, West Virginia area, not far from their cousins by uncle Garret.

Simon's fourth son, Johannis or John (1737-aft. 1810), had four sons and four daughters; Simon (1772-?), Benjamin (1777-1848), Johannis (1782-?), Nathan Allen (1789-1866), Hannah, Sarah, Marya, and Jannetie. It appears that Johannis, his wife Magdalena (Allen), and the children moved to Fayette County, PA in the late 1700s or early 1800s, where Nathan Allen Van Orsdol appeared in the early census data. Benjamin and his wife later moved to New Hope, Indiana where he died.

Simon's fifth son, Abraham (1740-?), had at least five sons and three daughters; there are two baptisms for a child "Simon", so it can be assumed that the first died young.

Abraham, wife Antje (Perlee), and their sons

### CONEWAGO (CONT. FROM P.6)

Peter (1764-?), Simon (1769-?), Cornelius (1772-?), and Derrick (1779-?) may have moved to the Hampshire County, (West Virginia area in the 1780s. There, Abraham may have had another son, Abraham, based on tax data.

Simon's sixth son, Isaac (1746-1824), had two sons and two daughters; Simon (1772-?), Isaac (1787-?), Marya, and Lisabet and this branch appears to have moved to Kentucky based on Bible records. Isaac and wife Mary (Brooks) died in Mercer County, Kentucky.

Simon may have had a seventh son, Dirck (1728-?), but CRV knows nothing about him, and he was not mentioned in Simon's 1787 will.

Simon's older brother, Jan Cornelisz, had four sons (Cornelis, Garret, Johannis, and Isaac) and it is known that the latter three moved to Conewago. Cornelis is believed to have moved to Conewago but his whereabouts afterward are unknown. One of Cornelis's sisters, Alte, married Christian Snedeker, and Snedeker was listed among the inhabitants of Conewago.

Jan's eldest son Cornelis (1721-?) had four sons by wife Femmetje/Phoebe (Van Nuys): John (1752-1826), Isaac (1754-?), Cornelius (1758-?), and Jacobus (1761-?). John appears to have been at Conewago, possibly marrying there, and then moved to the Shepherdstown, WV Dutch colony. However, he and wife Sarah (Monfoort?) later moved to Preble County, OH with all their children. John's brothers' whereabouts are unknown to

CRV at present.

Jan's son Garret (1727-1787) died at Conewago and left a will which is on file at York. In it, he lists his wife Gracey (Lucretia Hegeman), living sons Garret and Isaac, deceased son Joseph's daughters Lucretia and Ida, and his daughters Alleda, Jannetie (Brewer), and Sarah. Baptismal records indicate he had another son, Jan, who must have died young. His sons Garret (1753-1834) and Isaac (1762-1844) stayed in the Conewago area, but younger Garret's widow (Eleanor Richmond) and children later moved to Butler County, Ohio. He had three sons and three daughters by wife Nelte Petersen: Jan (who may have died young), David, Isaac, Ante (who may have died young), Jannetie, and another Ante. His son Jan was not mentioned in the will. It appears that David (1765-?) and Isaac (1770-1839) stayed in the Conewago area.

Jan's son Johannis (1731-1772) died at the colony; his will, written April 9, 1771 and probated June 22, 1772, is on file at York.

Jan's last son, Isaac (1744-1772), was married to Hannah Peterson and he also died and left a will on file at York. Isaac had three sons, John (1766-1841), Isaac (1768-1836), and Peter (1770-?) and it is known that the first two later moved to Cayuga County, NY in the 1790s.

## SYMON (CONT. FROM PAGE 6)

Jansen" with little other distinction. Of considerable trouble is the predominance in court records of Symon Jansen Romeyn who appears to have been engaged in law, but who frequently was recorded as "Symon Jansen". Romeyn must have been related to Stoffel Jansz Romeyn, who may have emigrated with Symon. The early Romeyn and van Aersdalen families are often confused as a result.

Around 1658, Symon Jansz married Pieterje Claese van Schouw, sometimes erroneously referred to as Pieterje Claese Wyckoff, daughter of Claes Cornelisz van Schouw, a tobacco shop owner. Symon would be very close to his father-in-law, perhaps in a way he could not be with his own father.

On May 3, 1660, Symon Jansz van Aersdalen was appointed a schepen of Nieu Amersfoort. Symon apparently had begun to make a name for himself within the community and was re-elected to this position in 1661 and 1662. In his magisterial post, Symon was chosen to represent Amersfoort in the "convention holden at New Amsterdam, on July 3, 1663, to engage the several Dutch Towns to keep up an armed force for public protection." Public protection took on new meaning for Symon; his first-born child Geertje Symonse was now 3 or 4 years old.

But not everything is easy for Symon. On Tuesday, August 28, 1663, "Symon Janzen" appears in court against carpenter Jan Teunizen and witnesses Willem Steenhalder and wife, claiming that Teunizen wouldn't release a house to Symon for which he had been paid. The court requested further proof from Symon, and so on September

4th, "Symon Janzen Asdalen" produces testimonials from two witnesses. Upon Symon confirming his statement by oath, and Jan Teunizen refusing to do so, the court rules in favor of Symon and he takes possession of the house.

In February 1664, Symon and his father-in-law became very involved in the building tensions with the British. On the 19th, they and three other witnesses appear before notary Pelgrom Clocq at Midwout (Flatbush) to testify about a public disturbance caused by an English captain. Symon signs his name to the document and attests to being 35. (However, if he was baptised in February 1628, he would have been 36.) Then, on the 27th, Symon 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." 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. 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.

[Primary source of the data in this article: Berthold Fernow's "The Records of New Amsterdam 1653-1674", 7 volumes, published by Genealogical Publishing Company, 1976 from the original 1897 printing]



## THE OLDEST VAN?

This story about Harold Vanorsdale was sent to me in 1992 and was of interest for two reasons: one, the man was 105, and two, his surname was spelled exactly like mine! I don't know the source, but it appears to be a *National Enquirer* type of newspaper. With genealogy as a "hobby", tracking someone down comes naturally, so I began to place some phone calls to Tallahassee area nursing homes. To make a long story short, none of the nursing homes knew him so I tracked down the nurse mentioned in the article who had taken care of him. This involved finally calling the Nursing Licensure and Certification office and, with a little luck, I located the nurse (who had since married and had a new surname). The nurse said that Harold was pretty cantankerous, but spunky and mentally alert. Unfortunately, Harold had died several years back, on January 1, 1989. I asked her why he was at the nursing home and she gave me the reply he liked to give; "Three times a week a 21-year old girl gives me a bath ... I can't afford to pay for that on the outside!" She further said that he loved talking about the changes that took place over his lifetime, particularly the time before television and even before radio. Sadly, Harold had no relatives to visit him; the nurse did say that he was regularly visited by a lady in her 70s, and she was kind enough to tell me the woman's name and, with a little prying, her phone number.

I called the woman, whose name is Lucille, and spoke with her some time. She said she thought he was born in New York, and that he had had several brothers but all had died a long time ago. Harold supposedly had a daughter, Gertrude (a derivative of Geertje!) who had married a

**World's oldest Marine vet turns 105!**

By JOE BERGER

Crusty gramps Harold Vanorsdale is the oldest U.S. Marine Corps veteran in the world, and he credits his 105 years of productive living to luck — just good, plain old-fashioned luck.

"You've got to be lucky to stay around as long as I have," the gray-haired gramps told reporters as he celebrated his 105th birthday with a party at a nursing home in Tallahassee, Fla. "That's obvious."

Strapping Harold joined the Marine Corps for a four-year hitch back in 1908 — and 80 years later he can still recite every verse of the Marine Hymn.

"His mind is as sharp as a tack," said a nurse at the home.

But the long-ago leather-neck isn't always as easygoing as he once was.

"None of your business!" the ornery oldster snapped when a newspaper reporter asked him what he did as a Marine.

"Are you proud to be a Marine?" the reporter tried again.

"What's it to you?" the retired painter grouched. But those who are closest to cantankerous Harold say he's really a lovable sort when you get to know him.

"He's 105," said nurse Janis D'Auria. "He ought to be able to do and say anything he wants."

Harold Vanorsdale



## OLDEST (CONT. FROM P. 9)

preacher, but the two had no children together.

She said he had lived in Tallahassee for about 50 years but still enjoyed, as she called it, “Northern food” such as beet tops cooked like greens. He was still driving at 100 but later had to give that up. He was able to walk with relative ease up until a few weeks before he died of kidney failure.

The doubting kind, I sensed an air of distrust in her tone of voice, as if I were a long-lost relative trying to set straight his estate. I wrote a couple letters to her, but never received any replies. Since then, I have learned that Harold Vanorsdale was born in Pennsylvania on July 8, 1883. He died 6 months short of his 106<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Does anyone know who his parents were? Does anyone know of a Van who lived longer?

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DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE  
MAILING LIST!  
[VANARSDALE-L@ROOTSWEB.COM](mailto:VANARSDALE-L@ROOTSWEB.COM)



## THE DELTA PROJECT

One of the goals of this Association is to assemble the largest, proved family tree possible. There are many versions of the family tree “out there” but some are fraught with errors, ranging from simple typographical mistakes to unfounded conclusions. As a result, rather than just pool our resources and piece together a tree, we need to build it with documentation.

This documentation, ideally, would consist of primary source data such as courthouse and church records. Unfortunately, our ancestors frequently found themselves in frontier areas where attending to documentation was not available or important. In such instances, the inflexible Dutch patronymic system can serve to establish relationships. In order to put the patronymic system to best use, and to introduce a sense of order in developing this family tree, the process of proving lines should commence with our family progenitor, Symon Jansz, and move forward. The resulting family tree will fan out from this source in much the same way as a delta forms at the mouth of a river, growing gradually as it is fed. Consequently, developing this family tree in such a way will come to be known as *The Delta Project*.

Starting with this issue, we establish Symon Jansz and his children. Your input is sought to document his children’s children. For example, we can document the birth of Symon Jansz’s great grandson, Abram/Abraham, as printed in the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, vol. 17, No. 1, p.80 in the Baptismal Record of the

## DELTA (CONT. FROM P. 8)

Harlingen Reformed Dutch Church, Somerset County, New Jersey. Better yet, if you have any photocopies of the original documents or clerk-certified copies of the documents, feel free to pass those along to the editor – we may include a copy in a future issue of the *Vanguard*.

The key to all of this is documentation or the “convincing argument” such as the naming custom. Some branches and/or individuals may require a vote by the readership in order to be placed on the tree. Acceptance will be assumed unless there are dissenting votes. In that event, both arguments will be published and the individual(s) again considered for inclusion by voting.

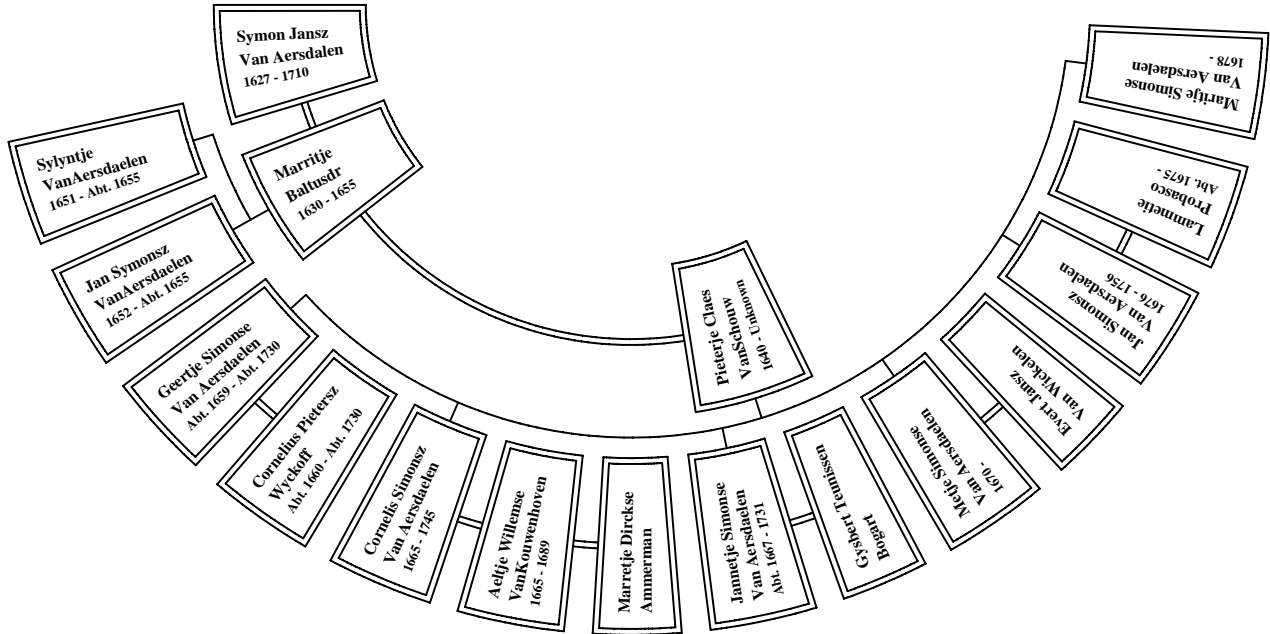
I look forward to your comments and input.

## SYMON'S MISSING DAUGHTER?

In 1698, Symon wrote a letter to his brother Joost in Amsterdam and gave an update on the status of his children. He listed sons Cornelis and Jan as well as daughters Geertgen (Geertje), Janneken (Jannetje), and Mettgen (Metje), all of whom were alive at that time. Thirty-five years later, Cornelis, Jan, and Metje wrote a letter to cousin Harmanus van Hombergen in Gouda in which they talk about their children and those of their now deceased sisters Geertje and Jannetje, not wishing to leave them out. So, it would appear that Symon had 5 children.

But as several researchers have pointed out, and as indicated in the 1898 Yearbook of the Holland Society of New York, p. 108, among the "Flatbush Dutch Church Records", we find this baptismal entry:

*Descendants of Symon Jansz Van Aersdalen*



# QUERIES



Please send your replies directly to the individual(s) listed, *not* to the newsletter.

**ELIZABETH VAN ARSTHALEN** born in **Savannah, Georgia** on Nov. 19, 1860 married **Manuel Rigüero de Aguilar**, born in Malaga, Spain. Both emigrated to **Nicaragua**, where all their children were born. She d. there in 1919. Searching for ancestors/other descendants. Rosibel Garcia-Prieto, 8775 Park Blvd, #507, Miami, FL 33172. [rgprieto@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rgprieto@ix.netcom.com)

**JOHN C. VannAusdall** (note the spelling) who died in **Petrolia, PA** on 5/7/1879 married **Margaret Ellen Evans**. They had 6 children; **Esther, James M., Hugh E., Ellen H., William F. P., and John Chas. Fremont VannAusdall**. Would like to establish contact with William's descendants and find John C.'s lineage. Cynthia VannAusdall, 3991 Tiffany Trail, College Station, TX 77845. [CVanna@aol.com](mailto:CVanna@aol.com)

**JACOB VAN ARTSDALEN**, born in **Philadelphia**, married **ELIZA GEARY**, born in **Bucks Co., PA**. They had 8 children including 2 sons, Lewis (a Civil War veteran) and a younger brother Isaac Geary (b. 1861) who went by Geary. **JACOB** and **ELIZA** later moved to **Cape May Co., NJ**. Looking for any info on Jacob and Eliza, as well as Jacob's lineage. Linda Wright, 1113 Grindleton Lane, Ambler, PA 19002-1605. [lwright@sctcorp.com](mailto:lwright@sctcorp.com)

**MARTHA VAN ARSDALEN** born c. 1760 **PA** died 10/26/1827, **Anderson /Mercer Co., KY**; married **LAMBERT DARLAND** and had children **John, Abraham, Isaac, Catherine**, and

**Garret**. Looking for her parents. Brian and TerriRene Howard, [brianter@macatawa.org](mailto:brianter@macatawa.org)

**SAMUEL ARSDALE**: who was he? In *Virginia Colonial Militia 1651-1776* edited by William A. Crozier ... "Report of various companies of the Virginia Regiment under the command of Col. Washington made the 9th of July, 1754 at Will's Creek, just after the Battle of the Great Meadows ... Captain Mercer's company ... Fit for Duty ... **SAMUEL ARSDALE**". Later listed as a private on the payroll of Capt. George Mercer, and then on a "list of officers and men of the Virginia Regt. ... taken from a pay bill of a detachment sent to **Augusta County** under the command of Captain Andrew Lewis, commencing the 29th of July and ending the 29th of Sept. 1754". Finally, on a list said to be preserved in the "Force Manuscripts" in the Library of Congress, Samuel was the first man tabulated in Captain Mercer's Company to receive "His Excellency's Bounty Money". If Samuel ARSDALE is Samuel VAN ARSDALE, then he is the earliest Van in Virginia I know of so far. If you know anything about him, please contact Charles Vanorsdale, 550 West Texas, Ste. 950, Midland, Texas 79701. [vanorsdale@tshickman.com](mailto:vanorsdale@tshickman.com)

I have a **PETER VAN ARSDALE** whose ancestry eludes me. He was b. 8-1817, d. 5-1864 in the Civil War. He volunteered at **Auburn, NY** in the 111th Regt. NY Infantry, Co G. The records indicate he was taken prison and was killed on a march to Libby Prison. There are no pension records. He was married to **Mary Ann VanArsdale**, father **James VanArsdale** b.3-13-1789, mother **Catharine Cooper** b. 9-25-1798. Mary Ann's death of 6-1-1911 is recorded in a VanArsdale bible record of which I have a copy. The Children of Peter and Mary Ann were: **Isaac Lansing** b.4-8-1840 d.4-3-1922 **Caroline** b. abt 1842

**Eliza** b. 5-14-1845 d.11-23-1923  
**Mortimer** b. 8-26-1847 d. infant  
**Elsie** b. 1850 d. 1912  
**Jane(Jennie)** b. 3-3-1853 d.1913  
**John W** b. 1858 d. MI  
**George W** b. 1858 d.

This family lived in the **Cayuga Co** area of upstate **NY**. Any information should be sent to Donald R. Schutt, [drschutt@greene.xtn.net](mailto:drschutt@greene.xtn.net).

**JOHN VANARSDALL** was born in **Mercer County, KY** in 1828 and married **ELIZABETH ANN SCOTT**. My mother-in-law remembers names **Vrouchie Van Nuys** and **Bantas** in the family. Can someone make the connection between these families?

and

**KATHRYN VAN OSDEL MACKAY** was born in **Ohio** about 1830 and died somewhere in **Missouri, Iowa**, or points west about 1859. Need death date and where buried. Perhaps had a son **Wallace** who also died about the same time. Sasha Stanley, 2434 Banyon Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45431-2612.

[stanlekv@erinet.com](mailto:stanlekv@erinet.com)

## THE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

This newsletter is the most tangible expression of the van Aersdalen Family Association. If you paid for this newsletter, you are also a member of the Association.

What is the Association? As stated in the proposal mailed out during the formative stages of the Association, it is a group of people, usually related, who share similar genealogical interests, typically the research of a particular surname and its variants. When we pool our resources, the whole is greater than

the sum of the parts. This has already been demonstrated on the Van Arsdale mailing list. One of the goals of this Association is to record for posterity the solid research product of this family and minimize the duplication of effort by other researchers.

CRV has been in contact with several family associations which have been in existence for over 20 years. Generally, these associations start off without formal structure. Internal motivation drives the election of officers and a board of directors when the association passes its fledgling stage. Incorporation and the adoption of bylaws accompanies the formation of structure.

All contacted associations admitted that the association's "glue" was the newsletter or journal. Frequently the newsletter preceded the formal structure and incorporation, sometimes by years. Hopefully, our newsletter will foster interest and help to guide the development of our Association.

One item which we need to address is the **Association Stated Purpose**. The ASP should serve as, if I may be so free with simile, the lighthouse guiding we boats through the fog. This should be formulated as the result of a group effort, but realizing that a group as far-flung as our own can be difficult to bring together, I will start the process by suggesting an ASP for review, clarification, or re-direction.

*The Stated Purpose of the van Aersdalen Family Association is to **coalesce, verify, and preserve for posterity the true descendancy of Symon Jansz van Aersdalen during the process of educating our membership on the history surrounding our ancestry and promoting family pride.***

This may constitute a "run-on" sentence but it opens the floor for discussion and presents the major points I can think of for starting the Association.

Once again, I AM SOLICITING OPINIONS FROM THE READERSHIP!

## **SYMON'S DAUGHTER (CONT. FROM P. 11)**

April 7, 1678 Maritje, child of Simon Janz v. Arsdalen, Peterje Klasen Wykof

The original records are "lost" and this data is a transcription made by Henry Onderdonk (dec'd). In light of the previously mentioned letters, one would surmise that Maritje must have died young. But then on p. 121 (ibid.) we find

Sept. 18, 1681. Rachel, child of Jan Barendz, Maretje Simons. Witnesses: Christofel Probasco, Maretie Tunis.

and that baptism was recorded just after one in which "Gertie Simons V. Arsdalen" served as a witness. Although we can't conclude that Maretje is Symon Jansz's daughter, we next find this baptismal entry on p. 133 (ibid.)

Nov. 9, 1684. Katharine, child of Jan Barends, Maretie Simons V. Arsdalen. Witnesses: Gerrit Snedeker, Elsje Tunis.

So now several questions arise: if Maretje was indeed married to Jan Barendz, how old was she when she was baptised? If these Maretjes are the same person, why was she omitted in the letters of 1698 and 1733?

CRV contends that the two Maretjes are not the same. The Dutch did not believe in postponing baptisms any longer than necessary out of fear of "infant damnation" and the Maretje that Symon and Peterje baptised should not have been of child-bearing age by 1681. Second, the prevailing patronymics (or matronymics) would demand that, of the first two girls born to this marriage, one would have been named for Maretje's mother. Neither girl was named Peterje. Third, in the introduction of the article for the 1898 Yearbook, they state "This copy of Mr. Onderdonk is not a literal transcript of the original, as in many cases he added

what he believed to be the family names subsequently assumed ...". Finally, Maretje appears to be the last of the children born to Symon and Peterje, at a time when Peterje was in her late thirties or early forties (she is said to have been baptised in 1640). It is entirely likely that this was a difficult pregnancy, and even today pregnant women in that age bracket are considered at "high-risk". It would be reasonable to assume that Maretje died as a child.

It is interesting to note that previous researchers, having acknowledged Maretje's 1678 baptism, go on to say that she was married to Jan Barendz when she would have been about 4 years old when her first child, Rachel, was born.

Therefore, CRV concludes that Maretje, the last child born to Symon and Peterje, died young, never married, never had any children, and consequently was never mentioned in letters dated up to 20 and 55 years after her death.

**THIS ISSUE IS OPEN TO THE READERSHIP. IF ANYONE CAN PROVE MARETJE SIMONS VAN AERSDALEN LIVED TO CHILD-BEARING AGE AND MARRIED JAN BARENDZ, PLEASE PROVIDE SUCH DOCUMENTATION TO CRV.**



## ANCESTOR CHARTS

In addition to the Delta Project, the newsletter "staff" is interested in the submission of family group sheets. PLEASE send only those sheets concerning YOUR LINE. Needless to say (but I'm going to say it anyway) SHOW YOUR DOCUMENTATION. Our predecessor publication, Marvin Vanausdoll's Van to Van (more commonly referred to as the Van Newsletter) attempted this in an effort to publish the sheets. We will try to pick up where he left off, and if that doesn't work we'll still have some documentation for the Delta Project.

More than likely, we'll need to set up a VAN AERSDALEN ARCHIVE to handle what I hope will be a definitive clearinghouse of Van records. ANYONE INTERESTED IN BEING THE ARCHIVIST? I would prefer someone with a librarian/curator or even bookkeeping/accounting background. Until someone volunteers, send those sheets and documents to CRV.

## FLATBUSH DUTCH CHURCH MARRIAGE RECORDS

The Flatbush Dutch Church records found in the 1898 Yearbook of the Holland Society of New York provide secondary documentation of the marriages of several of Symon Jansz's children (although n. b. the caveat mentioned in the article on Symon's Missing Daughter). The page numbers refer to the Yearbook cited page.

Oct. 15, 1678. Cor Peters Wykoff, to Geertje Simons V. Arsdalen (p. 88)

Mar. 16, 1687. Cors Simonson V. Arsdalen, to Aeltje Willems (p. 92)

Apr. 16, 1689. Geysbert Tunesen Bogart, to Janetie Simense (p. 93)

Feb. 27, 1690. Evert Jansen V. Mekelen, to Mettje Symonsen (p. 94)

May 2, 1691. Cors Symense, to Maritie Dirkse (p. 94)

## SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Articles for publication can be either narrative, such as the historical account of an ancestor's migration, or transcriptive, such as the record of baptisms at a particular church. We especially want transcriptions of primary records - - marriage records and "banns", wills, baptismal data, important land deeds and court records, and so on. Narrative work must cite all documentary data referenced, including primary records. If no documentation proving an ancestral link has been found, you may present an "argument" for your link subject to the approval of the readership.

Please submit your articles either in hardcopy form (typed, preferably) or file format (e-mail or diskette via snail-mail). If you send a file, please try to use a popular word processing program such as WordPerfect, WordStar, MS Word for Windows, or even ASCII text. Spreadsheets will be accepted if they are in EXCEL or Lotus 1- 2- 3 formats. If for some reason we cannot read the particular version in which your file was formatted, we will contact you for a hardcopy.

Charles R. Vanorsdale  
VANORSDALE@TSHICKMAN.COM



## REUNION NEWS

"The game is afoot ..." as Sherlock Holmes would say. There have been numerous Van reunions over the years, all mostly regional (such as the ones in Kentucky and Oklahoma) but now there is a groundswell for a national Van reunion.

Where to have it? Who to coordinate it? What to do at it? When to have it? How to pay for it? Imagine being able to meet all those distant relatives ...exchange data and stories ... compare family trees. Maybe do all this in some historically significant locale during favorable weather! Conewago? Harrodsburg? New York City (*New York City!?!?*)?

The idea is just now gaining momentum, and although we will monitor and report developments here in the *Vanguard*, for a more interactive experience log into the discussions on the e-mail list at [vanarsdale-1@rootsweb.com](mailto:vanarsdale-1@rootsweb.com).

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## SOURCES CITED IN THIS ISSUE

NJHS: Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society

SCHQ: Somerset County (NJ) Historical Quarterly

GMNJ: Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey

## YOUR EDITOR

**C**harles Vanorsdale was born in Fayette County, PA in 1957. Sparked by an early interest in dinosaurs, then geology, then petroleum geology, he finally became a petroleum engineer (Bachelor of Science '79 and Master of Engineering Management '84). A licensed professional engineer in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, Charles currently is a Senior Evaluation Engineer with a consulting firm in Midland, Texas. Charles' interest in genealogy actually began in 1966 when his fourth grade teacher introduced him to the Dutch patroon system in New York. His own research began in earnest 20 years later.

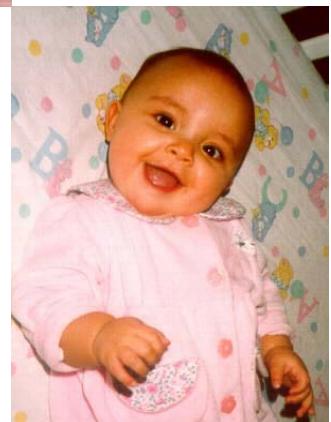


## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



Schuyler Vanorsdale

Celebrated his 2nd birthday on May 20, 1998.



Marissa Vanorsdale

Celebrated her 1st birthday on June 28, 1998.