

From Mabile to van Naarden to Van Orden Our Name and Our Ancestry to 1800

By Jon Bouwhuis
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PREFACE

When this history was first compiled twenty years ago, it was acknowledged that it was by no means complete. It was hoped that additional information would come to light to add to the knowledge we then had. Such is the case. We are indebted to all those in the family who have continued to research records, and have discovered new pieces of the puzzle. When fitted in, these pieces give us a greater view of our forefathers and the lives they lived.

I am especially indebted to Sister Gerda Bals of the Family History Library in Salt Lake. Her excellent class on Dutch research, and willingness to answer my questions, have been a great help in understanding the name evolutions and identifiers we have in our history. A short explanation of name identifiers used by the Dutch in the 1600's follows later.

As in the first printing, the primary source for the period 1540 to about 1700 is the short book *The Van Norden Family* published in 1923 by Theodore Langdon Van Norden. This book is exceptionally well documented and is considered quite reliable and accurate. Other published histories of the state of New York are less documented and contain much unverified information. Many of these appear to be largely the recollections of long time residents and descendants of the early families. The data contained in these histories are generally not supported by research, and one must be careful to not accept them simply on the basis of their publication. Finally, many of the "family histories" that have been compiled in past years present a mixture of undocumented tradition which adds a flavor otherwise unobtainable.

We must acknowledge that the Mabile descent has yet to be proven from the records known to exist. But every indication that has come to light points in that direction, and it is reasonable to believe the traditions of the family that our earliest known ancestor was indeed Seigneur Pierre Mabile. However, the pedigree beyond Pierre as contained in the Ancestral File is considered incorrect. That pedigree connects the Mabile family to French royalty with no supporting documentation, and a careful review of the dates given show this connection to be improbable if

not impossible.

Great care has been taken to not present supposition as fact. Where recorded events would lead one to assume a certain course had been followed, the narrative is worded so as to inform the reader of that hypothesis. On the other hand, when sufficient documentation exists to dispel any doubt, the event is recorded as fact. Footnotes have also been added to aid the reader. As before, it is hoped that additional information will come to light which will add to the knowledge we have of our forebears, as well as correct any errors contained herein.

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SURNAMES AND IDENTIFIERS

In the Netherlands in the early 1600's the use of a surname passing from one generation to the next was not generally followed by the common populace. People were known by their first names followed by an identifier. This identifier would distinguish an individual from another by adding a characteristic, trait or feature peculiar to that person. The most common identifiers used related to a person's occupation, place of birth or origin, or father's name. For example, the name Pieter Classzen literally means that this particular Pieter is the son of Class. Like the patronymic system used in Scandinavia, this particular identifier changed with each generation

My own grandparent's names provide an example of an occupational identifier. My grandmother's name was Bosschietter, which literally translated means forest shooter, or hunter. My last name of Bouwhuis means to build a house. We are quite aware that the Van Orden name evolved from van Naarden, the "van" meaning that our ancestor was known to have come from or been born in Naarden, Holland. Another common identifier incorporates the word "de", as in deBois. The "de" simply means "the".

This use of identifiers has caused confusion and misinterpretation among some who took recorded information literally and assumed it represented a name as we view names today. Thus, Pieter Casparszen van Naarden is often viewed as a first, middle and last name. In reality, it is correctly translated to be *Pieter is the son of Casper who is from Naarden.*

It should also be noted that in early Dutch records the word *van* is not capitalized because it literally relates to a place of birth or origin, and was not considered part of the name. Thus, in some alphabetized indexes of early Dutch records one would look under the "O's" for Orden, rather than the "V's" for Van Orden. As consistent last names became obligatory in the Netherlands this changed and families adopted both.

PIERRE MABILLE

Our history begins over four hundred years ago in what was then the province of Anjou in western France. In a beautiful valley nestled along the banks of the Loire River was the village of Nevy.¹ Here we find living in the mid 1500's one Pierre Mabile. Research has yet to provide us with detail of Grandfather Pierre's life, other than he appears to have been a citizen of high standing and probable wealth. His name is recorded as Seigneur Pierre Mabile de Nevy. The Seigneur signifying he was a probably a lord and/or land owner, his lands most probably being a grant from the King of France. The de Nevy simply means he was living in or near the village of Nevy. As late as 1900 the name Mabile was still represented in Anjou, and has long been connected with the oldest and noblest families of the province.²

We have found no record of Pierre's birth, but presume it to have been about 1540. Nor is there any known record of his marriage, his wife's name, or children having been born in Nevy. We cannot be certain that he was in fact married prior to his leaving France, but all indications would lead us to believe that he was and that he had children.

However, the fact that Pierre was a Huguenot, or Protestant, in a time of significant religious strife is well documented. By 1570 this strife had evolved into a civil conflict of major proportion. Admiral Gaspard de Coligny had become the leader of the Protestants, and was the commander of the Huguenot army formed to preserve their right of free worship. Pierre joined this army of determined men, and apparently served with high rank.

In 1572 Admiral Gaspard was called to Paris on the pretext of negotiating peace. Treachery rather than peace seems to have been the true design of this meeting, and the Admiral was assassinated in Paris on St. Bartholomew's Day, 24 August 1572. Following the death of their leader, the Huguenots were quickly overpowered, and a general massacre of the "reformed" took place. During this dark hour in the history of France many thousands of Huguenots were put to death or subjected to unbearable tortures at the command of Catherine de Medicis, queen of Henry II, all in the name of religion. Those who would not deny their faith and were fortunate enough to escape this terrible repression fled France, seeking a country that would allow them the freedom to worship as they believed. Holland provided that freedom.

It appears that Pierre Mabile left his mother country as part of the Huguenot emigration. We can only speculate on the impact that this move had of Pierre and his family. Because of the haste and

¹Also spelled Nevi and Neuvy. The old province of Anjou is now in the Department of Maine and Loire, France.

²T. L. Van Norden quotes a letter from a M. Le Moyne, of Angers, France, to Mr. E. C. Marshall, N.Y., 1897, in which Le Moyne uses the phrase "noblest families."

circumstances of their departure from France, the Huguenots had very little with which to begin their new lives. Perhaps Pierre fared better than most because of the wealth and position he enjoyed in France. But it is obvious that their lives would have changed drastically, and that many adjustments had to be made.

Again our information is sketchy, but Pierre seems to have settled with his family in the city of Naarden, Holland.³ It was here that a son was born about 1575. The son was christened Gaspard in honor of his father's former commander and martyred champion of the Huguenots, Admiral Gaspard de Coligny. It was not long before this young man's French name underwent a change to its Dutch equivalent. Gaspard Mabilie became Caspar Mabie of Naarden, Holland. Here is an overview picture of the fortified city of Naarden next to the Zuider Zee:



CASPAR MABIE

There is little in the way of records from which to piece together the life of Caspar. The son of a refugee, during a time of wars culminating in the Thirty Years War, he apparently entered the military service of Holland most probably early in his life. Indications are that he soon became a sergeant. According to the traditions of the Putman County N. Y. Mabie family, he served on a Dutch cruiser which took a Spanish prize off the North American coast near the yet to be settled area of New York.

It is not known how long Caspar remained in the military service, but he was evidently known throughout the remainder of his life as Sargent Caspar. His exposure to the new world apparently brought him to America later, if only as a visitor, for according to the records of the Dutch Church of New Amsterdam, the name of "Caspar de Sergeant"⁴ appears as a witness in a baptismal entry of 6 Nov 1650. Unfortunately our source does not name the person baptized, but this may very well have been a grandchild, as we know that at least one of his children was living in New Amsterdam at that time. Also, in O'Callaghan's Calendar of Dutch Historical Manuscripts at Albany, N.Y., a "Sergt. Caspar" is said to have brought suit against one Jan Peek on 12 Feb 1652. These dates would place Caspar into his seventies, giving us some insight into the life, character and strength of will this old gentleman possessed. It is not known if he lived

³Also spelt Naerden. The first edition of this history stated that Naarden was located on the shores of the Zuider Zee in the province of North Holland, 13 miles southeast of Amsterdam. This is the approximate location of the present town of Naarden.

⁴The *de* meaning "the".

the remainder of his life in America, but it is a reasonable supposition to make from the evidence at hand. Nothing is known of Grandfather's wife, family, or life in Holland other than a son was born about 1600 in Naarden.

PIETER CASPARSZEN MABIE VAN NAARDEN

The son, named in honor of his grandfather, grew up under the Dutch name of Pieter Casparszen (Caspar's son) Mabie. His name also appears as Pierre Gaspard and Pierre Gaspard Mabilie. He, like his father and grandfather, was a protestant, and because of his French origins, was numbered among the Walloons, a name given to the French protestant emigrants who spoke an ancient French dialect. It should be noted that it was the custom in Holland to name children after their grandparents. That he was known as Pierre Gaspard provides another tie to his grandfather. As he was also called Pieter Casparszen (Pieter, the son of Caspar) further supports that he was the son of Sergeant Caspar. This strengthens the supposition that Pieter van Naarden, who later settled in New Amsterdam, was a descendant of Seigneur Pierre Mabilie⁵.

Many of the French protestant refugees had settled in Leyden (Leiden), Holland, and by 1584 had organized there a reformed church, with Leyden becoming the center of the French refugee residents. It was from Leyden that the Pilgrims sailed in 1620, landing in Plymouth Rock, in their quest for religious freedoms. The impact of that emigration was no doubt felt among the Walloons who most probably were looked upon by the Dutch, as well as themselves, as being refugees not fully adopted by their foster country. Most likely the influence of the Pilgrim movement led many of the protestant refugee residents of Leyden to address a petition on 16 July 1621 to Sir Dudley Carleton, the British Ambassador at The Hague. The petition asked permission of the English Crown to emigrate to the new world British wilderness colony of Virginia. The ambassador reported to his government, but either the petition was denied or no action was taken.

Here we can see and appreciate what was perhaps divine intervention in the lives of our forebears. Had they received permission and subsequently settled in Virginia, they may well not have survived the starvation and Indian massacres which plagued the early settlers of the Virginia colony. Furthermore, it would have placed them some distance from the place of restoration, preventing them from hearing and accepting the Gospel so early in the history of the Church. At any rate, the same petitioners in the same year, 1621, thereafter applied to the Government of Holland for assistance to enable them to emigrate to America. Their petition was accompanied by an agreement which was signed by fifty-six individuals. These signatures represented fifty-six men, forty-one married women, and one hundred thirty children. Among the signers was Pierre Gaspard.⁶

No family is mentioned, nor any trade or occupation given for young Pierre, whereas for nearly

⁵Upon this question and his descent from Seigneur Pierre Mabilie, see N.Y. Gen. and Biog. Rec., V. 52, p. 251.

⁶State papers, Holland, Bundle 141, fol. 308, in Public Record office, London.

all other signers a record is made of their wives, children and trades. The fact that he signed his name indicates he was probably educated, a privilege few enjoyed at the time. That he could write in an age of general illiteracy would indicate his family most probably had means and status. He may well have been considered a gentleman which could account for the lack of a trade or occupation being given. Also, because of his young age and no wife's name, we may assume he was still a bachelor wishing to seek adventure, fortune and the freedoms of the new world. That he was of an adventurous spirit, the sort that first colonists had to be, is suggested by his father and grandfather having been soldiers. Perhaps he was even inspired by his father's adventures as a seaman off the American coast.

In 1621 another event took place which had a consequence on the course Pierre was to follow. The Dutch West India Company was chartered, granting the company a monopoly of the trade off the Atlantic shores of North America. It was also about this time, because of the growth of population and increase in commerce, that the Estates-General of Holland enacted a law compelling every man to use a surname that would remain constant from generation to generation. As a refugee, Pierre may have been influenced by many factors in making this choice, or he may have simply chosen the name he was most commonly known by. At any rate, he appears to have abandoned his French ancestral name of Mabile, replacing it with Van Naarden. Why the surname Van Naarden was assumed over the simple patronymic Casparszen cannot be ascertained. However, the fact that he chose to identify that his origin was Naarden helps us in our research as well as substantiates the movements of Pieter, as there has not been found any other Van Naarden family in Naarden, or anywhere else in Holland.

It is important to the understanding of records to note that the compulsory use of a consistent surname was not popular among the Dutch, and was slow in gaining acceptance and use. Many of the early records of New Amsterdam show given names only, some followed by the aforementioned identifiers. Thus we find that between the years 1647 and 1662, Pieter's name is found variously as Pieter Casparszen Van Naerden, Pieter Van Naerden, Pieter Casparszen, and Pieter Caspersen. Because of the few people living in the colony at the time, it is with little doubt that we can assume they are one in the same.

The first venture of the Dutch West India Company was to fit out the ship *New Netherland* under the command of Cornelis Jacobsen Mey, which in March 1623 sailed from Holland with thirty emigrant families, most of whom were French and Walloons. Her destination was the Hudson Bay where she arrived in May 1623. The emigrants, all apparently under the employ of the Dutch West India Company, were intended to man and further establish trading posts in the Hudson Valley area to gather furs by trade with the Indians. One unconfirmed reference states that among the thirty emigrant families, the name of Pieter Casparszen Van Naarden was included, although no passenger list is now known to remain. There are almost no records of the early trading posts of this region that would help confirm Pieter's presence. However, when the records do begin in 1639, we find his name constantly occurring and associated with the leading men of the colony, indicating some prior establishment. It is, therefore, with some degree of positivism, safe to follow the family tradition and state that Pieter Van Naarden was one of the first settlers, perhaps arriving in May 1623.

The ship *New Netherland* is said to have landed at Manhattan Island and that only eight of the

thirty settlers stayed at the trading post there, while the remaining decided to go to Fort Nassau and Fort Hobocan Hackingh, just across the river from Manhattan. Family histories and tradition place Pieter at Fort Hobocan Hackingh, though no remaining records substantiate this.

Pieter's first years in America seem to have been occupied with trade as an official of the West India Company, especially in buying furs from the Indians. Here his education and ability to read and write surely contributed to his success, and helped establish him as one of the early important men of the area. He is said to have frequently visited the Dutch settlement on the Delaware, and by 1626 was apparently living, if only temporarily, at "The Ferry" (Brooklyn). Here we find records of one Claes Jansen Van Naerden. In the earlier printing of this record a brief discussion of this individual was presented. It was then reported that Claes was referred to in some accounts as a "kinsman" to Pieter, and speculation was presented that he may have been a brother to Pieter's second wife. Further research has proven neither. Rather, a review of available records provides no evidence that Pieter and Claes had any relationship. The only thing they share is the use of the identifier Van Naerden. According to the booklet *The Luyster Family*, Claes originated in the town of Naerden (Naarden), Holland. The booklet reports that he arrived in America in 1639, and received a grant from the Dutch West India Company of a lot in New Amsterdam in 1645. The *History of Brooklyn*, Vol 1, p. 69, states that Claes Janse Van Naerden received a patent from Governor Kieft on 30 September 1645. Further research reveals that Claes was also known as Claes Janse Ruyter, the identifier Ruyter having reference to his expert horsemanship. At this point, all research seems to dispel any assumption that Claes and Pieter were related. However, since they both appear to have some connection to Naarden, and both were associated with the Dutch West India Company, they were likely acquainted.

Pieter was married and had children by 1639 as indicated by baptismal records of the Dutch Church which begin that year. He may well have married in Holland before leaving for America in 1623, potential brides being a rarity at that time in the New World. However, no records of his first marriage and wife have been found either in Holland or America, though information of three children by his first marriage is available.

By about 1640 Pieter seems to have gone up the Hudson River to the small settlement of Bergen, now located in New Jersey. The Dutch, desiring to settle in this area, had purchased the territory from the Hackensack Indians. Little is known of his life in Bergen, nor the circumstances surrounding his first wife and young family. But his stay appears to have been short as we next find him residing upon Manhattan Island where, by 1645, he seems to have been permanently established. We must remember that at the time this part of America was a primitive and largely unsettled wilderness, and one can only imagine the difficult conditions under which these first citizens lived, the only shelter available being that which they built themselves. Although indications are that Pieter enjoyed a certain degree of affluence, his frequent moves were undoubtedly taxing upon his family, and required a great deal of courage and fortitude.

About 1651 Pieter, now about fifty years old, married a second time to Aechtje Jans Van Norden, the daughter of Jan Van Norden and widow of Abraham Willemszen. Evidence reveals that Pieter had what seems to have been a close relationship with Abraham and Aechtje as he appears as a witness to the baptism of their son Abraham on 10 April 1650. We must again remember that the population was small and comprised of but few distinct families, and that a close

association no doubt existed among the Dutch settlers.

The young widow was twenty-four years younger than Pieter. It is presumed that Pieter's first wife had died, though no record has been found. It is also significant that Aechtje continued to be referred to by her maiden identifier Van Norden after the deaths of both husbands. This can be attributed to the reluctance to change this custom, and the fact that both marriages were of short duration. Her first marriage had lasted barely three years. Her marriage to Pieter was only thirteen years. The similarity between the names Van Naarden and Van Norden cannot be totally dismissed either. At any rate, the consequence of her use of the name Van Norden contributed to the final outcome of our family name, and constituted the next to last step in its long evolution. Incidentally, Norden, Aechtje's probable birthplace, or at least the birthplace of her father, was a town in the province of East Friesland, then in Holland, now in Germany.

Pieter and Aechtje's marriage can not be found recorded in the records of the Dutch Church, and was probably performed before the burgomaster (chief magistrate). They seem to have established their residence immediately after their marriage in their home on the corner of Broad and Marketfield streets in the growing settlement of New Amsterdam. Valentine's history of New York places them there in 1660 as prominent residents. A map of the city of New Amsterdam, Anno 1660, shows and lists their residence. Broad Street was becoming a fashionable residence street, later becoming the first to be paved in the city. It was probably here that the six children of their marriage were born. It was here that Pieter appears to have died about 1664, and Aechtje seems to have continued to live until her own death about 1690.

The records that we have of Pieter Casparszen Van Naarden suggest a man of venturesome and somewhat restless character in his youth; active, courageous and industrious in middle life; and remaining active in age as he became a prosperous and patriotic citizen. That he had means is evidenced by his contribution to the fund to build a city wall, by his registration as a voluntary taxpayer, and by his payment of over 71 guilders, a considerable sum in 1660, for the paving of Broad Street. That he enjoyed prominence is attested by his appointment as an excise commissioner, a burger, and his witnessing several church and civil events, including being one of twelve prominent citizens who witnessed a deed of purchase by Governor Stuyvesant of lands along the Delaware. He was of the type best suited to found a new country where the honest toil of its pioneers would result in freedoms prized by its citizens and envied by the world.

An incident occurred which warrants comment at this time concerning the ancestral name of Mabie. While Pieter used as his surname the Dutch identifier Van Naarden after coming to America, as did his eldest son by his second marriage, his only other son by his second wife and all his grandchildren by his first wife, assumed the surname Mabie. This helps substantiate the obvious inference that Mabile was the original ancestral name in France, changing to Mabie as the family passed through two generations in Holland, and provides credence to the sketchy history which has been pieced together. The name change may have been prompted by a tradition among the early Dutch settlers which is unexplained by records, as such name reversions to earlier ancestral forms was not uncommon, examples being found in other families as well.

It should be noted too that the name Casparszen is found in the early Dutch settlement of the Delaware. Pieter is said to have frequently visited this settlement and may have resided there for

a short period. However, the Casparszen name found among these records does not appear to be his, and persists over several generations. It is possible these Casparszens represent close relatives of Pieter, perhaps even a brother, and also supports the previously mentioned account of Pieter's father, Sergeant Caspar, coming to America in his later life. But as we have already pointed out, at that time Casparszen was only an identifier, not a consistent last name. So at present, this name similarity is only curious speculation requiring further research.

JAN PIETERSE VAN NORDEN

On 4 October 1654, Jan Pieterse Van Norden, the second child and first son by the marriage of Pieter and Aechtje was baptized in the Dutch Church. Again we find the use of the identifier Pieterse or Pieterszen, signifying that Jan was the son of Pieter. His first name, Jan, also follows the Dutch tradition of naming a son after a grandfather, in this case his mother's father.

Jan's father died when he was a boy of about ten, and as a consequence he probably came under the influence of his Godfather, Hendrick Willemszen. In his book *The Van Norden Family*, T. L. Van Norden states that Hendrick "was probably a relative" of Jan's mother's first husband. This has not been confirmed, and appears to an assumption based on the identifier *Willemszen* associated with both men. At any rate, Hendrick, a member of the Lutheran Church⁷, may have helped to form the youth's religious views. Such influence seems to have been strengthened by the lad's growing affection toward one of his life long friends, Lysbeth, also a Lutheran. Among the family's close acquaintances was another prosperous citizen by the name of Andries Rees. His daughter, Lysbeth, was baptized 25 Oct 1654, just twenty-one days after Jan. From the apparent closeness of the parents, the children were doubtless playmates, and this companionship resulted in their early marriage about 1673 when both were barely nineteen years old. It is here that we need to expand on the information presented in the first edition of this history. Lysbeth's name appears in various forms, including Elizabeth Rees Van der Lipstradt (Lippstraadt). It was previously reported that some histories speculate that the Van der Lipstradt name indicated that Lysbeth had been previously married, although no such record had come to light. In the first edition I discounted this speculation based primarily on their young age at the time of marriage. Now additional research supports my conclusion.

I am indebted to Sister Bals of the Family History Library for her patient explanations of Dutch customs and use of identifiers. I must also give credit to the Rees Family Organization for their research on Lysbeth's father, Andries Rees. They discovered that Andries was born about 1630 in Lippstraadt, Germany, that he came to New Amsterdam before 1656 as a soldier (mercenary) with the Dutch West India Company, was probably married before his arrival and was accompanied by his wife Celitje and son William. Another son, Johannes, was baptized in New Amsterdam on 26 April 1656. Andries was promoted to the rank of Cadet on 19 June 1657, but at some point abandoned the occupation of a soldier. The New Amsterdam map of 1660 lists him as a tavern owner. He later bought a house on Smits Straet, becoming a prominent member of the community.

⁷Doc. Hist. N. Y., III, p.245.

Although Andries used the family name Rees which he passed to his children, the identifier van der Lipstradt was also often attached. As we have discussed, this was simply the Dutch custom of further identifying an individual, in this case by listing his place of origin. Lysbeth's name occasionally included this same identifier, and was misinterpreted by some to represent an earlier marriage. That assumption has been shown to be incorrect.

The Dutch Church records have no entry of the marriage between Jan and Lysbeth, or the baptismal dates of any of their children. Again, additional research supports the premise that they were married in the Lutheran Church, which they thereafter attended.⁸ Suffice it to say for now that proof of the marriage abounds, with the first of ten children being born about 1674. By the time of their marriage, Jan's name was increasingly tied to his mother's identifier of van Norden. This may be because of his father's passing when Jan was still young, and the fact that the use of a surname was becoming the norm. In his book, T. L. Van Norden speculates that the closeness between the identifiers (van Norden and van Naarden) linked to his parent's names may have been indistinguishable to the English ear, and the evolution of the name change was a consequence. We do know that the growing British influence at least played a part in the establishment of a common surname, but continue to find various spellings throughout Jan's life.

It is here we need to digress and clear up some issues that have been previously recorded, and establish a clearer understanding of our ancestors and the efforts made to correctly link the generations. With the insight we now have into the use of identifiers by the early Dutch settlers, and realizing that many have made the assumption that these were surnames, we can readily see why some incorrect conclusions were made. For example, in his book, T. L. Langdon states that the Van Norden name remained unique until 1699 when one Pieter Wesselszen adopted the surname. He reports that records describe Pieter Wesselszen as being from Norden, Holland, and speculates that it is quite possible he was of the same family as Aechtje Jans Van Norden. Our ability to now decipher the parts of the identifier clearly shows us that Pieter's father was named Wessel, while Aechtje's father was named Jan. While there could be a relationship, we can be quite certain that Pieter and Aechtje were not brother and sister. The only thing we can be sure of is that their origins were associated with Norden, Holland.

Another individual who is sometimes identified as a "relative" of our Jan Pieterse van Naarden, is Claes Jansen van Naerden. We can immediately see that the two had different fathers, and were therefore not brothers as some have speculated. We only have evidence they both had similar origins. But the similarities of the identifiers has become so confused, and the fact that some of Claes's children had the same names as some of Jan and Elizabeth's children, that some histories state that Claes and Jan are one in the same person, or that Jan and Elizabeth's children were the children of Claes and his wife Pietertje.. This is pure conjecture that can be easily disproved. Records state that Claes came to this country as early as 1639, whereas Jan was not christened until 1654. Claes' life is well documented, and we can follow his movements through the

⁸A note in the record of the Albany Reformed Church which accompanied the entry of the christening of one of Elizabeth's brother's children states that "parents are Lutheran". When the Lutheran church records began about 1703 we find several entries for Jan and Elizabeth's grandchildren. This supports the conclusion that Elizabeth's family were Lutheran, and that Jan and Elizabeth were members of the Lutheran church.

acquisition and selling of property, none of which follows the same route as Jan's. Furthermore, another identifier of Ruyter was attached to Claes, "because he was, as the name signifies, a good horse man."⁹ We find no such identifier ever being associated with Jan, or reference to him being involved with horses. We also find that Claes' children seem to have all adopted the surname Jansen, while Jan's children used the name Van Norden.

But the confusion of the children's parentage is a little more involved. Because Jan and Elizabeth began attending the Lutheran church, we find no baptism or christening records for their children in the Dutch church. The Lutheran records do not begin until 1703, past Jan and Elizabeth's child bearing years. Soon thereafter, Jan and Elizabeth's grandchildren began to be born. Consequently, there is no known original source recording their children's births. However, a careful exam of the Lutheran records shows the baptisms of several children that lists Elizabeth Van Norden as a witness, godmother, or grandmother. While we cannot be absolutely certain that these are all the grandchildren of Jan and Elizabeth, and that the listed parents are Jan and Elizabeth's children, we can be comfortable with that supposition. Thus the generation of Jan and Elizabeth's children were filled in. We can now return to our story.

At some point Jan and Elizabeth turned their attention toward Bergen and Hackensack, small villages that had been established by the Dutch across the Hudson River. We know that Jan's father Pieter had resided in Bergen for a short period, but can only speculate about the reasons Jan and Elizabeth chose to leave their comfortable home and prominent standing to settle in these more rural settings. Some have postulated that Jan did not like the growing influence of the British, and chose to live out his life in a purely Dutch neighborhood. The English settlers now outnumbered the Dutch, and had changed the name of New Amsterdam to New York in 1664. Initially, Jan and Elizabeth may have maintained two houses, one in Bergen and one in New York. The birth of a daughter in Bergen about 1686 provides evidence that they had established some type of residency there. Yet in Valentine's History of N. Y., p 376, Jan appears on the 1701 list of citizens, but he did not vote in the election for aldermen held on 29 September 1701. And his name is not included in the New York City census of 1703. Furthermore, we find Elizabeth's name appearing on the Hackensack Dutch church records in 1701, and the Lutheran church records after their beginning in 1703. We can safely conclude that by the end of 1701, Jan and Elizabeth had established their permanent residence across the Hudson.

A short explanation is in order concerning the towns of Hackensack and Bergen, and the associated church records for these communities. The names of Hackensack and Bergen are often commingled, lending confusion about their localities. In reality, the two were eleven miles apart. Hackensack had no separate Lutheran church organization, and the pastor in New York visited there at intervals to baptize, marry and bury church members. The pastor returned to New York and recorded these ordinances in the New York Lutheran church record books. Likewise, some ordinances for the Lutheran residents of Bergen and Hackensack were sometimes performed in the Dutch Reformed church, for the lack of a Lutheran pastor, and recorded in the Dutch church's records. Thus it is necessary to carefully research all the records to find pieces of the puzzle. A comparison of all records indicates that by 1701 Jan and Elizabeth had permanently left New York and lived in the vicinity of Bergen until Jan's death in 1733. Thereafter Elizabeth lived her

⁹General History of Hudson and Bergen Counties, by Harvey, p. 244

remaining two or three years with one of her son's in Hackensack.¹⁰

WILLIAM VAN ORDEN

Of Jan and Elizabeth's children, William¹¹ was the youngest. In the first edition of this history, I stated that "William was christened about 1693 at Hackensack, which was probably Bergen." This was a quote from another history which does not provide a source. Since we have yet to find christening records for Jan and Elizabeth's children, we must view this information as a presumption based on other evidence, but can be comfortable that it is a reasonable one. But again, the lack of precise evidence of William's birth date and place, has caused some historians to try and fit the pieces of different puzzles together to explain or support early legends and regional folklore. Such is the case with William.

One history of New York states that William was born in Holland about 1668 and came to America aboard the ship "Arms of Norway" sometime after 1670, "probably in the custody of some friends of the family." Unfortunately, the author gives no source information for this statement, and it appears to be based on local folklore handed down from one generation to another. How a specific ship can be named while the date of arrival is unknown, does not leave one with a comfortable feeling about its accuracy. And it is improbable that a two year old coming to this country in the custody of some family friends would retain his original identity into adulthood. It is also quite easy to compare known and documented events in William's later life, and come to the conclusion that his birth was not as early as 1668. Had it been, he would have been a man of 50 by the time of his marriage, age 67 at the birth of his youngest, and 97 at his death. While this is possible, it is not very probable. And were it so, there would surely be other evidence as to his advanced age when these events took place.

The fact that the Van Orden name was unique also gives credence to William's ancestry. To this point we have followed the name through its various spellings, evolution and usage through two generations. On the tax list of 1655, and on the roll of citizens of New Amsterdam, Pieter Casparszen Van Naarden was the only one appearing by this name/identifier.¹² In October 1664 when the British required all inhabitants to swear allegiance, Pieter had died and Jan was only ten years old living with his mother. No other Van Norden occurs on this list.¹³ On the list of members of the Dutch Church, 1686, the only one of that name is Aechtjie Jans Van Naerden.¹⁴ The only other use of the name/identifier prior to 1699 was the afore mentioned Claes Jansen

¹⁰The Bergen Dutch church records show that Jan Pieterse Van Naarden died 29 August 1733, at the age of 79. An entry in the New York Lutheran church book states "Lisabet Van Orden, buried in Hackensack Church, in 82d year."

¹¹Probably named Willem.

¹²Valentine, History, p. 315; Paulding, New Amsterdam, p. 87.

¹³Col. Hist. N. Y., III, p. 74.

¹⁴Valentine, History, p. 331.

Ruyter van Naerden, but as stated he was more commonly known by Ruyter, with his children later adopting the surname Jansen. We briefly reported that one Pieter Wesselszen had origins tied to Norden, Holland. His first mention is in 1699, perhaps indicating his arrival in this country was 60 years after our Pieter, and no kinship has ever been established. And of final note, T. L. Van Norden tells us in his book that Jan's brothers all adopted the ancient French surname of Mabie, thus giving credence to the conviction that our ancestral line passed from Jan to William.

At the time of William's birth, the practice of using a continual surname from generation to generation was becoming widely accepted and employed. Although various spellings continued, it appears that William was the first to be known by Van Orden. Only one other, a nephew, James, who settled in Rockland County, New York, is known to have used this spelling. Williams siblings retained the Van Norden spelling at least through their generation, with it continuing with their descendants to this day. In later years, however, we find other Van Ordens and Van Orders appearing in various parts of the Northeast, particularly in New York State. We will probably never know whether these were normal evolutionary changes as a result of illiteracy, or if they were intentional changes. But it is likely that most, if not all of these families, are descend from our common ancestor.

We know little of William's early life, and must turn to family histories that have been handed down through the years. The original authors of most of these have been lost to time, and subsequent additions and numerous copying have diluted them to interesting family traditions, with little or no supporting documentation. But they add a flavor otherwise unobtainable, and allow us to trace our ancestry through another generation.

Quoting from one history, author unknown, we read the following. "A vague tradition connects the boyhood of William Van Orden with Perth Amboy, and with the life of a seaman, but what is known respecting him [begins] about the year 1716 [when] he married Temperance one of the daughters of William Loveridge..." Perth Amboy is a port city in Northeast New Jersey, about 20 miles south of his birthplace. Later records¹⁵ find him in Fort Orange (now Albany, N.Y.) about 115 miles up the Hudson River from Bergen. If these scattered pieces do represent our William, it would lead us to believe he was a young man of strong but perhaps restless spirit, who was familiar with the surrounding region. If he was in fact a seaman, as family tradition suggests, his service may not have been upon the open sea, but up and down the Hudson River, an important shipping route of his day. It is quite possible to see how this sort of occupation would have led him to become acquainted with the Loveridge family who were residing in Catskill, N. Y., a settlement along the Hudson.

The Loveridge family had been among the first residents of this beautiful little valley bordering the Hudson. Their land had originally been a grant or patent from Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch Governor General of New Netherland. They had become quite wealthy, and owned considerable land. The father, William Loveridge, had died a few years before, leaving the widow Loveridge and five children. Our William apparently fell in love with Temperance, the youngest daughter of this prominent family.

¹⁵From a family history, no source given.

In the first edition of this history, it was recorded that there were conflicting dates as to the marriage of William and Temperance. It has long been believed that William and Temperance were married in 1716, and that their first child, William, was born about 1717. The date of 1 Mar 1719 has now surfaced as their probable marriage, though more research is needed to confirm it. This would place the birth of their son William as sometime later. And since their other children's well documented births took place in the 1720's and 1730's, this later marriage is more probable. This, however, also places into question the date William and Temperance took possession of her portion of her father's land. According to some histories, the farm was surveyed and divided in 1718, with Temperance receiving "lot #4". While this may be correct, if their marriage did not take place until 1719, it is probable they did not take possession of their portion until after their marriage. But with that began the Van Orden ownership of a farm which has remained in the family name for nearly 300 years, one of a few in America which can make this claim.

We must assume that with his marriage to Temperance, William abandoned any previous occupation, and became a "farmer". We do not know how much farming he personally engaged in, or whether he had hired help to work his land, but we can speculate from family tradition that with his marriage he inherited some degree of wealth, and probably lived a comfortable life thereafter.

William built his family a home on their land that was to be his home throughout the remainder of his life, and which stood for over 200 years. It was built partly of logs and partly of stone quarried from the Kalkberg. It was situated against a gentle slope so that it was two stories high on the east side, and one story high on the west. It was situated on the high ground overlooking the beautiful Hudson River and "jealously guarded canon place" at which boats tied. One author described the location as "a sheltered and lovely situation, the hill and the forest on the west kept off the coldest winds and the sun shone upon the house all the winter day." Indeed, when I visited the farm 15 years ago on a bright fall day, I was stirred by its simple beauty, and understood why William and Temperance loved this area.

William was involved in his community, and appears to have taken an active part in the affairs of the day. He was one of the first Elders of the Dutch Reformed Church at old Catskill. That he taught his children well as attested by a letter which describes his grandson Hezekiah Van Orden as a "young man of some estate and unblemished character." And as we read the histories of this area, we repeatedly come across the Van Orden name included among the prominent and influential citizens.

William died in 1765 and was buried near the crown of a hill northwest of his home. Family tradition tells us that he wanted to be laid to rest in the earth that he loved, overlooking the Hudson. Fifteen years ago I walked up this hill which was covered with young maple trees, their falling leaves blanketing the forest floor. I had been given directions to his grave, and hoped I would be able to find the small stone marking the spot. I was able to do so. I stooped and read the simple inscription, "*W.V.O. 1765*"

In 1767, two years after William's death, his children cast lots for the division of their father's

land. But the final division of the property was not consummated until 1774 after the death of Temperance. An inventory of the couple's possessions shows them to have been a wealthy family for their day. While this list contains items of furniture, household items, and a considerable sum of money, it lists only one book, a Dutch Testament with silver clasps.

JOHN VAN ORDEN¹⁶

We know of seven children born to William and Elizabeth, but as we pass to this generation we have yet to complete our research enough to paint a complete picture of our next progenitor. John was likely the third child and second son born into the family, and following the Dutch tradition, was named after his grandfather.. Various records say he was born and perhaps christened on 26 May 1727. In 1751 he married Tryntje Dubois, and the young couple moved into a small cottage on his father's farm. Upon the division of his father's property, John received one hundred acres "...and more, lying upon the Hudson, in the northeast corner of Lot No. 4."¹⁷

We know little about John's life except for that contained in the family histories that have been passed down. These are being used to aid in researching the records that exist, and it is hoped this narrative can be enlarged to include all our paternal progenitors down to modern times. The few sketches we have of John is that he was actively involved in the issues of his day, including this nation's fight for independence. Like most of his Dutch neighbors, John is said to have had little regard for the British. Perhaps this was a carryover of feelings generated among the Dutch at the British take over of New Amsterdam, and its renaming to New York. Perhaps it was due to the requirement of their fathers to swear allegiance to the British Crown. Or perhaps it was a desire to enjoy the freedoms that independence would give. But we do know that John lived in a time when great fervor was sweeping the countryside as the British were sailing up the Hudson, literally in front of the Van Orden farm. Three of his sons, William, Benjamin, and Peter are known to have served in the fledgling American army.

PETER VAN ORDEN¹⁸

Peter Van Orden, the third son of John and Tryntje, was born on 19 Feb 1761, at Catskill. One unsigned family history records that "...but a stripling..." during the Revolution, he became a captain of a company enrolled for the protection of the Imbogh. If this is correct, he was indeed just 16 upon the signing of the Declaration of Independence. At the war's end in 1783 he was still a young man of 22, quite young for an officer even in his day. Perhaps his two older brother's

16Also spelled Jan.

17Quote from a family history, author unknown.

18Also spelled Pieter.

service were a motivation to him, as was probably his father's apparent strong position against the British. But at present we can accept that he likely did serve, and further research will verify in what capacity.

On 15 Aug 1780 Peter married Neeltje Dumond.¹⁹ To this couple four children were born, the last, John (Jan), born 2 Jan 1791, died young, perhaps at or shortly after birth. At this point we don't know if the birth of this son contributed to his mother's death, but we do know that Peter was a young widower with three young children when he married a second time to Rebecca Freligh on 17 Nov 1893.²⁰ Pieter and Rebecca became the parents of five children, the third and fifth apparently dying in childbirth, as they were unnamed. For a second time Pieter was widowed, and the date of his second wife's death is the same date as the birth of their last child.

We can only imagine the difficulty and heart ache this young forty-two year old father of six must have faced. But just slightly more than a year later, on 28 Oct 1803, we find Peter marrying for a third time to Mary Crooker²¹, the widow of Zebulon Carbine. She brought into the marriage four children from her first marriage. The first child of Peter and Mary was christened William, born 15 Nov 1804, in Cairo, Greene County, New York. It is this William who later married Julia Ann Haight, and who became the first of our Van Orden ancestors to embrace the message of the restoration and join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

At this point we know little of Peter's life other than he is chiefly remembered as an Innkeeper in the Windham Mountains. Again, there are family histories that serve as a guide to further research that is hoped will add more to our knowledge. Until this is completed, this narrative must come to a close.

¹⁹Kattsbaan, Ulster Co., N.Y. church records, LDS Family History Library.

²⁰History of Greene County, LDS Family History Library

²¹Ibid