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New Amsterdam Family Names and their Origin

By
Berthold Fernow

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AND THEIR ORIGIN
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NEW AMSTERDAM FAMILY NAMES AND THEIR ORIGIN.

BY BERTHOLD FERNOW.

"WHAT'S in a name?" and "That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet," said Shakespeare, three hundred years ago, mais nous avons changé tout cela, and to-day we are more or less proud of the name derived from our forefathers, no matter how it was first acquired.

The study of proper names of persons and places is not only a matter of curious interest, but also of some historical importance, when we look into the names of the people who were the first settlers of New Netherland. For in many cases we learn thereby where they came from, although, to a great extent, they were not far above the savages, whose system of nomenclature was only changed by the rite of Christian baptism, giving each child a permanent "call-name," to which the
father’s name was added. This did away with the change of appellation which took place in, say, a Mohawk Indian’s name at different periods of his life. Born on a stormy day, the babe would be called “Lightning,” or “Thunder,” or “Rain,” and the boy was known as such until he accomplished his first daring feat in the hunting-field or the chase, by which he possibly acquired the name of “Cinnamon Bear,” because he had killed one. Then he went out as a warrior, killed and scalped a noted enemy, and was henceforth, to the end of his life, known as “He who scalped Tom Noddy.” To all was added the totem name,—the name of the clan to which the youth belonged,—in reality a family name, to wit, the Bear, the Turtle, the Wolf, etc. We find something similar in the Greece and Rome of antiquity, after social institutions had become so permanent that male kinship and paternity were recognized, for then the custom of patronymics, differing from the Mohawk totem only by not being tattooed on the bearer’s breast, was introduced. The totem name became a gentile name, and in Greece gave place to a local one, derived from the “δῆμος”: thus, a Greek is called Thukydides, a name given him after his grandfather; he is the son of Olorus of the deme of Halimusia; while a Roman has received at his birth the name of Marcus, he belongs to the
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Tullian clan, and is therefore entitled to the name of Tullius; and because he requires a special designation, to distinguish him from a cousin or uncle, he becomes known as Cicero, from the large pea-shaped wart on his nose.

This system of nomenclature answered the purposes of Greek and Roman civilization. Among the Teutonic races, the earliest and most widely spread class and family names were totemistic, and frequently derived from animals and plants. This tendency to use the objects surrounding man or his favorite occupation in the choice of a name is inherent in the human race. Up to the first quarter of this century the Jews in Prussia observed the biblical way of calling themselves Isaac, the son of Abraham, or Abrahamson, and Isaac’s son Moses became Moses Isaacson, so that great confusion, especially in legal cases, occurred; to obviate this the government ordered them to adopt permanent family names. Then, as a sarcastic old gentlemen of the writer’s acquaintance used to say, “the characteristics of the men came out”: the poetically inclined called themselves after flowers, as Lilienthal, Rosenthal, Rosenberg (dale of lilies, of roses, hill of roses); the ferocious took the name of wild beasts, as Wolf, Bear, Fox, combining them also with the dale or hill or stone, whence we have the names Loewenthal,
<table>
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<tr>
<td>Loewenstein, Loewenberg (lion’s dale, stone, hill). The Hebrew, fond of money and other values, became a Silverstein, Goldstein, Rubinstein; a small number adopted the names of their trades and occupations, as Schneider (tailor), Kaufman (merchant), or retained the names of their fathers, as Mosesson, Jacobson, or called themselves after the place of their birth, Berliner, Stettiner, Hamburger.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The same system as adopted by the Jews in Prussia prevailed among the early settlers of New Netherland, who added a new difficulty for the genealogist by often calling a person after the mother’s baptismal name, not because it was a case of illegitimacy, but because the mother had become a widow with young children and it was easier to designate these children that way. In regard to married women among the Dutch, it must be said that only in a few instances we find the woman called by her husband’s family name; she may occasionally be called Annetje Dircks, the wife of Dirck Smitt, but she is as often designated as Annetje Meinders, when, after her first husband’s death she marries Abel Hardenbroeck, Meinders meaning the daughter of Meindert.</td>
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<td>As the Half-Moon Series is principally devoted to the history of Manhattan Island, the writer considers it appropriate to speak only of the names found in the Index of the lately</td>
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New Amsterdam Family Names

published *Records of New Amsterdam*, and begins the inquisition into the origin of names with that of the island.

Somebody tells that Manhattan, in its various spellings, means the "Big Drunk"; because, according to Indian tradition, which, by the way, is as reliable as if graven in stone, the first meeting of red and white men resulted in the utter stupefaction of a young Indian, who courageously dared to drink the goblet filled with wine which the white men offered as a token of friendship and which the older men of his tribe had suspiciously refused. He fell on the ground, completely overpowered by the hitherto unknown beverage and the place was called the "Big Drunk," or, in colloquial Spanish (the first white men coming here having been Spaniards), *Moñado or Monhado*, meaning the same. This Spanish word passed, like a great many others, into the Indian dialects and is now considered an Algonquin Indian word.

In treating names of the first settlers of New Netherland, it must not be forgotten, first, that they belonged to probably almost every nationality in Europe and secondly, that during the Eighty Years' War with Spain the United Provinces had been overrun by soldiers born in every corner of the Old World, and carrying with them names of their localities.

The first name in the Index used as a pa-
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| tronymic is the father's baptismal name with the addition of an *s*, when a woman is to be designated, or of the syllable *sen* or *zen*, for a man, meaning Aart's or Aarend's daughter or son respectively, and had the father been an Englishman they would, in this case, have been called Arthur's or Arthurson. In the same way originated Aarnoutsen, the son of Arnold, and Abelsen (the intervening Abbesen being probably an orthographical error for Abelsen of the clerk who recorded the proceedings of the Court); and going through the whole Index we find Abrahams and Abrahamsen; Adams, Adamsen; Albers, Albertsen (also Elbert and Elbertsen); Andries, Andriesen (*Anglice*, Andrews); Anthony, Antonissen, with the Greek form of Antonides; Arians and Ariaansen, which is misspelled Adrian; Baren, Barentsen, Bernard's daughter and son, respectively; Bartelsen, the son of Bartholomew; Bastiansen, the son of Sebastian; Carelsen, the son of Charles; Carstensen, the son of a Sleswig Christian; Caspersen and Gaspersen, son of Caspar; Claasen, son of Nicolas; Cornelissen, also Corsen, son of Cornelis, a name which is often abbreviated into Cors; Flipzen for Philipsen; Fransen, the son of Francis; Fr Ericksen standing for Fredericksen; Gerritsen from Gerard; Gillisen, Jelissen, and Jillisen from Giles or Julius, in its French form, Jules; Hanssen, the son of Johannes, in its abbreviation,
Hans; Harmensen, Harmsen, Hermsen, the son of Herman; Hendricksen, the son of Henry; Huybertsen, the son of Hubert, or, in old English spelling, Hobart; Jansen, like Hansen, a shortened Johanness; Jochemsen, the son of Joachim; Jorissen and Juriansen, the son of George; Leendertsen, the son of Leonard; Lodewycksen, the son of Lodo- wyck, which is the old German form of Louis or Lewis; Paulisen, Pauluzen, and Poullissen, the son of Paul; Reinoutsen, the son of Reinold; Roelantsen, the son of Orlando or Roland; Roelofsen from Ralph, Rolph, or Rudolph; Sandersen from the Scotch form of Alexander; Stoffels and Stoffelsen, daughter and son of Christopher, in Dutch, Christoffel, and abbreviated Stoffel; Teunissen from the Dutch form of Anthony; Woutersen, the son of Walter. In all these cases the genealogist will have to discover what family names the descendants adopted.

Coming to names which are still used to-day, we have in Lysbet Ackermans the daughter or the wife of a tiller of the soil, or a husbandman. As the first English name we find Ackleton, perhaps intended for Hackleton, with the $H$ dropped, and meaning a place where the people hackle, or clean, hemp and flax; another English name, that of Addison, is derived from some connection with an adze, in obsolete English, *advice*, and in Saxon, *adese*. 

**New Amsterdam Family Names**

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| Hans; Harmensen, Harmsen, Hermsen, the son of Herman; Hendricksen, the son of Henry; Huybertsen, the son of Hubert, or, in old English spelling, Hobart; Jansen, like Hansen, a shortened Johanness; Jochemsen, the son of Joachim; Jorissen and Juriansen, the son of George; Leendertsen, the son of Leonard; Lodewycksen, the son of Lodo-wyck, which is the old German form of Louis or Lewis; Paulisen, Pauluzen, and Poullissen, the son of Paul; Reinoutsen, the son of Reinold; Roelantsen, the son of Orlando or Roland; Roelofsen from Ralph, Rolph, or Rudolph; Sandersen from the Scotch form of Alexander; Stoffels and Stoffelsen, daughter and son of Christopher, in Dutch, Christoffel, and abbreviated Stoffel; Teunissen from the Dutch form of Anthony; Woutersen, the son of Walter. In all these cases the genealogist will have to discover what family names the descendants adopted. 

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Jan Adely, sailor, may have been a Scandinavian, whose name, a slight corruption of the Swedish word *adelig*, *(Anglicé, noble,)* may refer to his birth; but it may also be the corrupted Dutch word *Adelaar*, the eagle. Whether Leendert (Leonard) Aerden derived his name from Mother Earth (*Aerde* in Dutch) generally, whether it came from his occupation as a worker in earth, making earthenware, or whether he came from Shakespeare’s Forest of Arden, cannot be decided here. The writer suspects William Aest to have been an Englishman named East, which name the recording clerk fancifully wrote *Æst*. He was probably an ancestor of the still flourishing family of Ast, and if the clerk’s spelling was correct according to the standard of his day, William came from Germany and was, as his name suggests, a branch of a tree. The name of Richard Airy, also an English one, explains itself.

Alders, the daughter of Aldert or Aldart: this Aldert is a baptismal name occasionally found among the Dutch of the eastern, more purely Saxon, Provinces, and means “of all,” while Aris is evidently the Bible name Ares. The next name to be considered, Aldrix, is so variously spelled, *i.e.*, Alrichs, Aldrighs, Alricx, etc., that it is impossible to say to what nationality the first of this name in America belonged; but we find in Swedish
the name of Alarich, the great chief of the Huns, spelled Alrik, and this fact, combined with the appearance of the first of this name in the Swedish-Dutch colony on the Delaware, points to him as a Swede. François Allard suggests, by his baptismal name, French nationality, but we come further on to Allard Anthony, supposed to have been an Irishman; François had, therefore, only taken his father's first name. Henry and John Allen were Englishmen, deriving their patronymic from the old Norman Allan, but \textit{allen} in Swedish means "alone."

Isaac Allerton is to-day claimed by collateral descendants as an Irishman, notwithstanding the ending of the name with the English \textit{ton}, an abbreviation of \textit{town}, taken from the Dutch \textit{tuyn}, an enclosure. All possible sources may be called upon for this name; beginning with the English \textit{alert}, we come to the Spanish \textit{alerto}, but the single \textit{l} is against this supposition. Allerton having been an Irishman, it behooves us to look for a Celtic origin, and we find that perhaps the first two syllables of the name are a contortion of the word \textit{allo}, ancient, and the whole means "old town." In Amy we have the old spelling of the French \textit{ami}, friend. Appel, Appelgate (modern Applegate) explain themselves, but they may have taken their names from their native place, Appel, in the Province of Guelderland.
Asdalen suggests by its combination of the Swedish *as*, carrion, and *dalen*, the dale, or valley, a Scandinavian origin, while John Ashman's name came from the same occupation which Colonel Waring's "White Angels" now pursue. The first of the Atwater family who assumed the name took it because he was born or lived at the water, and so did the first Bach, as the name, a German one, refers to a small stream.

Backer, Baker, Becker, took their names from their occupation as bakers; Badger, if that was the name, because he was allowed to deal in grain from place to place, or if he spelled it Bagard, because he was the guardian of a bathhouse; while Baeck had something to do with a beacon, or he may have been a very tall man, whose head was always to be seen in a crowd.

Bagyn, Baguyn: among the many religious societies of the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries there was one in Flanders whose members were called Beguins, not restricted, however, by monastic vows, and our Anthony was so nicknamed because of his connection with the order. Bamboes is evidently also a nickname, perhaps given to Herman Jacobsen of the Index, because he dealt in, or in some other way had something to do with, bamboo. Bancker is not a banker, unless we use the word in the Dutch sense of sitting long on a bench or bank.
Barfort: Webster explains *bar* as a piece of wood or iron used as an obstruction, or as the shore of a sea, and we can, by translating the other, the French, part of the name, give it the meaning of a strong bar of wood, or a fort on the shore. Bartelott is a French diminutive of Bartholomew; Barton, a town on the sea; and Barwick, a village on the sea, the syllable *wyck* having been taken into the Saxon from the Latin *vicus*.

Whether Baxter is another spelling of the Dutch word *Bakster*, a woman baker, we leave to the decision of etymologists.

The name Bayard is probably one of the oldest among the New Netherland names, but it is doubtful whether its bearers of to-day would be willing to accept the first being called by it as their ancestor. For, in the *Geste de Doon de Mayence* we read “*Renaud, li fils Aymon est en Baiart montez.*” Baiart was the war horse of Renaud, eldest son of Aimon de Dordone or Ardenne, which at a dangerous moment develops a human intelligence and awakens its master by striking the shield with its hoof, and at another time carries Renaud and his three brothers. It is not told of this first Bayard that it could bark, and yet there seems to be no other derivation of the name possible than from the Italian *baiare*, to bark, unless we go farther afield and say Bayard was one who stood around gaping, deriv-
ing it from the French bayer, or a crier, from the significance given to the word in the Loir et Cher; but it is possible that the name comes from the Swedish word Boyort, Boyert, a species of small Dutch vessel, which appears later on as Boyer.

Beaulieu and Beauvois are distinctly French, meaning “handsome place” and “handsome sight.”

Beck is the Dutch for the mouth of an animal, the English beak, but it may also be an abbreviation of the Dutch word bekken, a basin; while on the other side we have the Swedish beck, for pitch, and as Father Isaac Jogues of the Society of Jesus reports that when he passed through New Amsterdam on his way to France, in 1643, he found seventeen different nationalities represented here, Joannes Beck may have been a Swede, who for some reason called himself Pitch.

Beekman, or the Man of the Brook: this interpretation of the name was recognized by King James I. of England when he granted to the Reverend Mr. Beekman, grandfather of Willem, as a coat of arms a rivulet running between roses.

Been, a bone, a leg, Beer, a bear, Beetman if not a misspelled Beekman, the man of the beet, the man who has a bite or bait, Benehem, the basket home, Berck, the birch tree, Besem, the broom, need no further explana-
tion, nor does, properly, Bestevaar, the old man, the grandfather, were it not that we have two juniors of this name; hence we must suppose that it had ceased to be a nickname and had become a well-established patronymic.

Blau, blue, Blauvelt, the blue field, may also be translated into English as foolish, false, instead of blue. Seeing how the name of Blommert is differently spelled, we must conclude that the first of the name was a florist and, therefore, was called Bloemaert. Blyenberg, or, as now spelled, Blidenberg, is a glad hill; Bode, a messenger; Boeckstat, probably meant for Boeckstaf, a letter or character; Bogaart, Bogardus, an orchardist, and Boheem, a Bohemian.

It seems that Claas Bordingh came from the neighborhood of Danzig on the Baltic, and that his name was derived from his occupation as a lighterman, like the father of Marryat’s hero in *Jacob Faithful*, for in this East Prussian dialect *bording* means a boatman or lighterman.

Bos comes from *bush*, meaning a wood, and Cornelis Boshuyzen from a bush house; Botsen had kicked or ran against something; Bottelaar is the original of the English Bottler, now Butler, the man who has charge of and fills the bottles; Boulter would seem to be a corruption of the English Bolter; Bout is in Dutch a bolt, a shoulder of mutton, a bold man, a quill, or a duck, and from these definitions we must apparently choose the origin of this name, as
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the English word does not lend itself for use as a patronymic. Bowers is probably a misspelled Bouwers, the builders, and Brackenbury, the borough of the ferns. Dirck Classen Braeck, or his ancestor who assumed this family name, came either from a braak, a pond, or from untilled land.

The name Braidley is only once spelled Bradley, and might be translated as a deceitful meadow, Chaucer using the Saxon word brede as "to deceive," but it is more likely that the name came from the Irish braid, broad, or that the clerk spelled it phonetically, or thought the English a had to be written as the diphthong ai; in both cases it would be a broad meadow, while Brandley is a burned-over sward or meadow. Bredenbent offers an opportunity to speculate in the construction of names; were it spelled Breenbend we could say the first two syllables meant broad; but as it never occurs with two e's we cannot suppose this the usual carelessness in the spelling of names and must assume that the name had something to do with the former barony and present fortress of Breda. But the principal difficulty lies in the last syllable of the name, for we cannot accept the explanation given by G. R. Howell in his paper on *Origin and Meaning of English and Dutch Surnames* that Bent means "a frame" and Benthuyzen "a frame house," for there is no word bent in the Dutch language and
the English word of that spelling would not have been used to make a Dutch name. We must therefore fall back on the Dutch *bende*, a troop or company, or on the equally Dutch *Bend*, the name of a society of German and Dutch painters in Italy two hundred years ago, so that Bredenbent had probably something to do with a painter from Breda belonging to the society.

Bremer is a native of Bremen; Breser, a breacher, or a man who made a breach by shooting; Mr. Breun is Mr. Brown. Briant is evidently an Irishman, though he is often called Bruyn, the name given to the bear in the old German epic of *Reinard the Fox*; but the two ways of spelling the name leads to the supposition that both are meant for Bruyant, a noisy fellow.

Charles Bridges took it easy with his name. An Englishman, coming to New Amsterdam from the West Indies in 1639, he was sent to Curaçao as Member of the Council under Stuyvesant in 1644, and translated his name into van Brugge, which means "of the bridge." He returned to New Amsterdam with Stuyvesant in 1647, continuing in the service of the West India Company, but when the English took New Netherland he called himself again Bridges, changed once more to Van Brugge for a short time in 1673, and died as Bridges at Flushing, L. I., in 1682.
Bridnell, in other records spelled Brudenell, is again hard to explain, for bru, the French for daughter-in-law, or in old French, the string, de, of, and neille, or nelle, in French, the edge or rim of a hoop, give no sense; yet we must call this an old French name, for its device, _En grace affie_ (trust in grace), is old French; it was later changed to the English "Think and Thank." Briel and Bryel have taken the name of their native town, Briel, on the island of Voorn, in the Delta of the Rhine, without the usual _van_ or _from_.

Broeders and Broerzen are a brother's daughter and son. The only word at all like the name Bronk is the Greek _βρογχός_, the wind-pipe, but it is not likely that any one would have adopted this as a patronymic; but it is possible that the name grew from _bron_, the spring or well, into Bronck, to become our modern Bronx. Brouwer is now a brewer. Bruisen, Bruynen, and Bruynsen have been explained before, and in Bruyver we have a misspelled obsolete Swedish word for brewer. Bryn is a Swede, who lives at the edge or on the surface. and John Bugby probably came from the village (_by_ in Swedish, _bye_ in Danish) of the sprites (_buka_ in Russian).

Bullaine, Bolline, Bolleyn, offers, by its various spellings, a chance of being derived from the Latin _bulla_, meaning "a bubble," "a trifle," "a pinhead," or of having something
to do with "a bull"; in its forms Bolline and Bolleyn it points to the Latin Bolanus, an inhabitant of the town of Bola, now Poli, in Italy. But the form Bullaine may also be derived from the old English word bull, meaning large, to which the other English word, boll, the pod of a plant, is closely related.

Caleb Burton, or one of his ancestors, appears to have been a seaman, who took his name or was nicknamed, from the top-burton-tackle of his ship.

The Dutch call a gust of wind buy, hence the first Buys was probably an irascible man; but if the name is spelled Buis it comes from a tube or from a herring-fishing vessel, a buss. Byswyck may be translated as "bees' village."

Caarber is probably a misspelled Caarder or Kaarder, a man who cards wool, while Calder seems to have some relation to the Spanish caldera, a caldron. Calebuys becomes in one entry Kalckbuys, which seems to be the more correct, or at least is easier to explain, as kalck is the Dutch for limestone. Campen took his name, which also appears as van Campen, from his native place, so called, in the Province of Overyssel.

Has Canidal anything to do with Canidia, the witch, spoken of by Horace, or with Canidius Crassus, the general under Lepidus and Anthony, whom Octavius put to death?
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<th>Capps ; Chatlin</th>
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| Capito comes evidently from the Latin *caput*, the head, and Capoen is our modern capon. Capps may have been a dealer in caps (Dutch, *kap*), and Cardel (Kardeel), one in ropes, a ship-chandler. Carelsen was the son of a Charles, or of somebody called a *kaerel*, a stout fellow. In Carmer we have the Old Swedish word for coachman, and Carpenet, with Carpesy, seems to be derived from the French *carpeau*, a small carp; so perhaps also Carpyn; but its other form, Corbyn, which nowadays has become Corwin, points to the Latin *corvus*, the raven, which they carry in their coat-armor. Whether Cartwright, the maker of carts, is an English form of the Dutch name *Kortregh*, short law, or *vice versa*, the genealogist has to decide. Casier is the French for a maker of Parmesan cheese, which the clerk spelled phonetically Casige, the *g* being strongly aspirated in Dutch. Cattoen is woven cotton, and Cawyn strongly reminds us of the crow’s caw; but it sounds also like the Dutch *hawaan*, a coarse turtle-shell. Ceely, and later on Sely, have evidently some connection with the obsolete English word *seely*, meaning lucky or silly, although there is a suspicious resemblance to the German word *selig*, happy, blissful. Cees is an odd abbreviation of Cornelis, and is pronounced Kees. Chartier, the old French form of Cartier, makes paper and cardboard; Chatlin is a misspelled French
chatelain, or guardian of a castle; while the Latin *castrum* has become an English Chester. Claarbout and Claarhout may have both been intended for one or the other, but as the recording clerk made two names of it we must accept it so, and say that Claarbout is an evident or ready bolt, and the other such timber. *Clabboard*, the Dutch way of spelling the English clapboard, or shingle, was a nickname occasionally given to Thomas Chambers, one of the first settlers of Kingston, New York. Clein, Cleyn, Clyn, Kleyn, de Cleyn, is the little one; Clock and Clocq, "a bell" in Dutch, but "clever" in Swedish. Jan Cloet is said to have come from Nuremberg, in Germany; if he did so, he did not bring his patronymic along, for only in vulgar German is there a word spelled like his name. If he assumed his name here he called himself after a bowl, or globe; but if he was of Swedish origin, and the name is spelled Cluet, it may come from the Swedish word *klut*, a sail, or generally, a rag. There is, however, the possibility of a French origin of the name, a French maker of nails, a *cloutier*, having abbreviated the designation of his trade to Cluet, and spelled it Cloet. The already quoted *Origin and Meaning*, etc., says that the Dutch *Kluit* is the English "lamp," but we cannot find a verification of this assertion; on the contrary, the Dutch *Kluit* is the English "clod." Clof, Klof, was
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| suspiciously like the Swedish *Klofve*, a log; but it may be that Richard Clof lived somewhere in a cleft or gap (*Kloof* in Dutch), and was called after his dwelling-place. Clomp is our English “lump,” Clopper, a knocker or beater, and Cloppenborgh may have been sent about the country to alarm the boroughs. Colfax, or, as now spelled, Colfax, seems to be a mingling of Swedish and Saxon, for we have in Swedish *Kol* for coal, and in Saxon *feax* for hair: probably the first man so called had coal-black hair, a rarity among the Northern races.

The name Cregier is again so variously spelled, that is, Crigier and Krigier, Crugier and Krygier, that it is hard to say to which tongue it belongs. It may originally have been the French *crechier*, guardian of a *créche* on a fortified bridge; it may have been a nickname for a man who obtained (Dutch, *kreeg*) everything he asked for; it may have been a corrupted German *Krieger*, the warrior, or an equally corrupted East Prussian *Krueger*, the keeper of a village tavern, a *Croeger* in Dutch.

With the names beginning with a *de*, the Dutch for *the*, we come mostly to nicknames, pure and simple, adopted as patronymics. De Backer is the baker; de Boer, the farmer; de Bruyn, the bear; de Caper, the privateer; de Carman and Kerman, the carter; de
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| Conninck, usually written without the *de*, King; de Coster, the sexton; de Cromp, the bow-legged; de Cuyper and Kuyper, the cooper; de Decker, the roofer; de Drayer, the turner; de Goyer, one who casts; de Graaf, the count; de Groot, the tall man; de Haan, the cock; de Haart, the heart, but probably misspelled for de Hert, the deer; de Haas, the hare; de Hagenaar, the hedger; de Hooges, the high one; de Jager, the hunter; de Jardin, of the garden; de Jongh, the young; de Kersausvaarder, the canal boatman, or, literally translated, the seaman going through the daisies; de Kleuse, the close one; de Looper, the runner; de Meyer, the house or farm steward; de Milt, properly de Mild, the liberal man; de Peyster, the shepherd, from the old French form of *paistre*, for *paitre*; de Pottebacker, the maker of earthenware; de Potter, the merry jester; de Riemer, the saddler; de Ruyter, the rider; de Ryck, the rich man; de Sterre, of the star; de Visser, the fisher; de Vos, the fox or the sorrel horse; de Vries, the Frisian; de Waart, Waert and Waard, Waerd, the tavern-keeper; de Weerhem, probably misspelled for Weerhan, the weather-cock; de Witt, the white one; de Wys, the wise man; de Yonge, the young.

But there are a number of names beginning with *de* of French origin, in which case it
means of, as de Foreest, or Forêt, as written to-day, of the forest; de la Montagne, of the mountain; de la Motthe (Motte), of the soil; de la Nooy, of the nut; de la Plyne, of the plain; de la Chair, of the flesh, but possibly this is meant for de la Chaire, of the chair; de la Vaal or Val, of the valley; de Marée and Ma-reest, either "of the salt fish" or "of the tide"; de Neufville, of the new city. Some of these French or Walloon names go farther afield and require more explanation: in de Honde-coutrie we have in the syllable hon, according to Valois’s *Notice des Gaules*, the English "ham" or "hamlet," while coutrie, or cout-trie, is the office of a sexton, so that the whole name would signify the place where the sexton has his official quarters.

As it would become tedious to the reader to wade through the surmised, apparent, or obvious origins of names, we give henceforth only the explanations most evident: Davenport, has its origin from the French *D'avant port*, before the port; Doesbury, Doesburg, now Dusenberry, from the city of Doesburg, on the eastern branch of the Rhine, in the Province of Gueldern; Draek, the dragon; Droogestradt, the dry street; Dubo (Dubois), of the woods; du Four, of the oven; du Mont, of the hill; du Puys, now Depew, of the well, or from the town of le Puy, in the French Department of the Loire; Duyckingh, a diving-man; Duyts,
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a German; Duyvelant, the land of pigeons, or he came from the island of Duivelant, in the Province of Zeeland; Fullewever, the fuller, weaver; Gaaljaard, the French *gaillard*, a merry fellow; Gaineau (Gano) had something to do with a scabbard; Gansevoort, from the geese ford; Hackins, in its various spellings, shows that it is the English Hawkins.

Although neither of the two Robert Livingstons appear in the *Records of New Amsterdam*, it may interest the reader to know that the name was originally von Linstow and that the family came from the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, whence, some time in the sixteenth century, a Linstow had emigrated to Scotland. Thence he was sent by the king as ambassador to the German Emperor Matthias, in 1612, and when the last of the Linstow family in Mecklenburg died, about twenty years ago, there was discovered among his papers the copy of a letter written to his cousin, the Ambassador Livingston, inviting him to pay a visit to the home of his ancestors.

Keteltas was a bag for the kettle, and Kettelhuyn was a chicken ready for the pot.

At a time of great monetary depression in Germany, some people took advantage of the uncertain laws of coinage and of the multitude of foreign coins in circulation to decrease the value of the coins by cutting the rim; these
Kipper; Nagel

Kippers and Wippers, and possibly the name of Kip came from this nefarious practice; but it is more likely derived from the Dutch word Kip, a pack or a bundle, or from the colloquial Dutch word Kip, a hen. On the other hand, there is the German word Käpe, Kiepe, the coop or wicker basket. A French origin of the name, as claimed, seems impossible.

Loockerman was the man who dealt in or liked leeks; Meersman, a triton; Megapolensis, the Latinized name of van Mecklenburg, the man from Mecklenburg; Menist, the Mennonite; Metselaer, the mason; Meutelaer, the mutineer; Middagh, mid-day; Moesman, the porridgeman; Mol, the mole (also a sort of beer), but as the device of the Mol family in Europe is Laet de Mol in th' hol (leave the mole in the hole), we must accept the first explanation; Molegraaf, the mill count; Molenaer, the miller, from the Italian Molinari, a family name still in existence in Europe; Naber, the neighbor; Nagel, the nail; Naghtegael is the nightingale, but the bearer of this name did not show herself as a mellifluous female in the Records; Op Dyck lived on a dyke; Pluyvier, who himself spelled his name Pluvier, perhaps did not know enough to come in when it rained, or he liked the plover; Steenwyck took his name from the village of that name in the District of Drent,
New Amsterdam Family Names

Overysse, and Sterrevelt, from the field around Sterre, a place in the fork of the Waal and the Rhine. There is in the Department of Côte du Nord, France, a river, the Trieux, from which the name du Trieux, Truy, etc., was taken.

We come now to the peculiarly Dutch names with ten, ter, van, van der, and ver, the ten and ter meaning at the, the van, van der, and ver (a contraction of van der), of. Thus we have: ten Eyck, at the oak; ter Heun, at the hedge; while the vans have mostly adopted the names of their native places, some of them so small that no geographical hand-book mentions them, but in probably no case has the Dutch van become, like the German von, the nobiliary prefix, for in the Netherlands noble birth was always indicated by a title; besides, in those days of almost constant war, the nobleman found always a chance to occupy himself profitably in the army, and under no condition adopted a mercantile life. The places where the vans came from, and which are found in gazetteers, are:

Aalst: Terwen, in Het Koningrijk der Nederlande, describes two places of the name of Aalst, one a village near Waalre, the ancient Waderlo, in the Province of North Brabant, the other in Guelderland. Besides, there is an Aalst, or Aloste, near Ghent, Belgium.

Aarnhem, Province of Guelderland.
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<td>We have already disposed of one van Brugge under the name of Bridges. Whether the others also came from Bridges, or from the Belgian city of Bruges, in Dutch spelled Bruggen, cannot be decided here. Campen lies in Overyssel; Ceulen is the Dutch for Cologne; Cleef is the Duchy of Cleves. It is claimed for the van Cortlandt family that their first ancestor in America, Olof Stevensen, was a descendant of the dukes of Curland. There are several objections to this theory. Curland, the country of the Kures, a branch of the Lithuanian people, was an in-</td>
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dependent possession of the Knights of the Teutonic Order, who Christianized that part of the world in the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries. Upon the overthrow of this order by Poland, in 1561, it became part of that kingdom, and was only created a duchy, to be given as such to Biron, the favorite of Empress Anna of Russia, in 1710, more than fifty years after the name van Cortland appeared here. The second objection is based on the social conditions of the seventeenth century, which would have prevented the scion of a noble family from becoming a trader; he could always find service with his sword in the various armies of the Thirty Years' War. Then the first part of the name of Curland, or Kurland, the Kur, is too much like the Dutch word Keur, the choice, to have been changed into Cort, short. Cortland is simply "short land."

The name of van der Bilt, or van de Bilt, is taken either from the village of de Bilt, a suburb of Utrecht, or from the parish of Het (the) Bilt, in Frisia, or, possibly, from one of the Bils, or narrow passages of the sea, between the peninsula of Denmark and the island of Fuenen; van de Linde, from a town in Guelderland; van der Heyden, from a place in Holstein, or it may mean "from the heath"; van der Eyck, Kuil, Perck, Ree, Schel, Schuyr, Sluys, Smisse, Spiegel, Veen, Veer, Vorst, are
purely local designations, from which the names were taken, as from the oak, the cave, the park, the sail-yard, the bell, the barn, the sluice, the forge, the looking-glass, the fenn, the ferry, the forest. Van der Stighelen may have some connection with the Dutch *Sticht*, or *Diocese*, and van der Vin is from the fin of a fish. Van Dincklagen comes from Oldenburg; van Deventer, from the place of that name in Overyssel; Elsland is the country around Elsinore, on the island of Zeeland; Hasselt, a town in Overyssel; Hagen, Hattem, and Harderwyck, in Gueldern; Huesden, in North Brabant; Imbroecken lies near the Zuyder Zee; Iselsteyn, in Utrecht; Laar (Lahr) is a town in the Grand duchy of Baden; Loon lies on the Maas River, in Brabant; Meppel, in Drente; Naarden, in Utrecht; Wyck is a fortified town on a branch of the Rhine, the Vechte or Wechte. Malte-Brun says, in his *System of Geography*, that this river in the Netherlands is of less importance than the Yssel, Issel, or Isel, to-day the branch of the Rhine called the Vechte.

Some names of Dutch towns have changed since natives of them came to America: thus, there is in Belgium the city of Tirlemont, as the French call it, which is called by the inhabitants Theenen, and was the Tienhoven from which Secretary Cornelis van Tienhoven took his name.
New Amsterdam Family Names

To close this article, it is only necessary to repeat that *ver* is an abbreviation of *van der*, and the meaning of the names Verbeeck, Verbraack, Verbrugge, has already been explained. Verhage is *van der Hage*, of the bush or from the Hague; Vermeulen, from the mill; Verplanck, of the plank; and we add the few names which require translation, to wit: Visser, the fisher; Vogel, the bird; Vogelsang, bird's song; Vos, the fox, and Joncker Vos, the son of a Baron Vos; Vredenburgh, borough of peace; Vries, the Frisian; Waecker, the watchman; Waldman, the man of the forest; Wandel, probably an abbreviated Wandelaar, the walker; Wantenaar, the rigger; Webber, the weaver; Wisselpenningh, change the penny; and finally, Wyt Straat, either a wide street or a badly written Uyt Straat, outside street.
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