

WASHBURN

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Van Houten Family  
Of Bergen, N. J.

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THE VAN HOUTEN FAMILY

OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY

BY

CHARLES L. DEMAREST WASHBURN

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1897



## THE VAN HOUTEN FAMILY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY.

BY CHARLES L. DEMAREST WASHBURN.

THE ancient Township of Bergen no longer exists under that name. Originally comprising all of that portion of the present County of Hudson lying east of the Hackensack River, its territory was reduced, from time to time, by the formation of new municipalities. One of these was Jersey City, to which, after having become the City of Bergen, it was annexed in 1870. Mr. Charles H. Winfield's "History of the Land Titles in Hudson County, N. J." [1872], reproduces the text of the "Field Books" prepared by the commissioners who partitioned the "common lands" of the township in 1764, and other public documents, with explanatory chapters and copious notes, of great value to the genealogist and conveyancer; and to these is added a "List of Marriages, Births and Deaths, taken from the Record of the Reformed Church in Bergen." His "History of the County of Hudson, New Jersey" [1874], contains genealogies of many of the old Dutch families, not including the Van Houtens, the names in each of which are numbered consecutively. Some of these names appear in this article, followed, in parentheses, by the numbers assigned them by Mr. Winfield. To each of his works, and especially to the list of marriages, births, and deaths, I am indebted for facts and dates; and also to the "Records of the Reformed Dutch Churches of Hackensack and Schraalenburgh, New Jersey," published as Volume I. of the "Collections of the Holland Society of New York" [1891]. ©

1. One Roelof<sup>1</sup>, as we know from his children's patronymic, was the father of

2. i. Helmigh Roelofse<sup>2</sup>.\*
3. ii. Cornelis Roelofse<sup>2</sup>.
4. iii. Tonis Roelofse<sup>2</sup>; and probably of  
iv. Magliltje Roelofse<sup>2</sup>, who married Jan Hendrickse<sup>1</sup> in Bergen, July 22, 1683.

I have given their names in the order of their marriages, in Bergen, not knowing the dates of their births. My evidence that Helmigh, Cornelis, and Tonis were brothers is that they not only bore the same patronymic, but that two of them at least and descendants of each of them adopted the surname Van Houte or Van Houten. As the latter is the uniform spelling of the present day, I employ it except where I have found the former in signatures or records. My mother, who spent

\* Throughout this article I use patronymics only where I have found them in the records.

*Revised and corrected, a compiler in 1918 in the Dutch Church at Hudson, N. J. the  
first minister of the Van Houtens of [Hudson] N. J. [Hudson N. J.]. [Hudson N. J.]  
the Church "by Rev. [Hudson N. J.]*

73510

NEW JERSEY  
JERSEY CITY, N. J.

all of her early life in Bergen, tells me that the name was always pronounced by the old people Van Houte, in three syllables, the "e" having the obscure sound as in "moment." Possibly the "n" was added to preserve the last syllable when English with its silent final "e" became the prevailing language, but the spelling Van Houzwten is found in the New York Church records as early as 1718.

2. Helmigh Roelofse<sup>2</sup>, a young man from Gelderland,\* married Jannetje Pieterse, September 3, 1676. In the record of his death, October 7, 1729, he is styled Helmigh Roelofsen Van Houten †; in that of marriages and births, Helmigh Roelofse. She, as will be shown, was the daughter of Pieter Merselise (Marcellissen, Marcellus), who was appointed one of the schepens of Bergen, August 18, 1673, during the reoccupation of New Netherland by the Dutch, and died September 4, 1681. "He came from Brest," says Mr. Winfield in his "History," ‡ "in the Ship Beaver; arrived May 9, 1661, with his wife, four children and two servants. His children were aged respectively 13, 6, 4 and 2 years." "The passage cost him as follows: For self, 36 florins; wife, 36 florins; children, 90 florins; servants, 70 florins. He was the founder of the Merselise family in this county and vicinity." Jannetje must have been one of the four children mentioned, as she was of marriageable age in 1676. She and Helmigh<sup>2</sup> had the following children, whose birth or baptism is recorded in Bergen:

- i. Roelof Helmigse<sup>3</sup> Van Houte, baptized June 11, 1677; married, 1st, at Bergen, Aagtje Cornelise Vreeland (44), April 21, 1701; and, 2d, at Hackensack, Feytie Siggels (Syntje Sickels), January 3, 1712, § when it is recorded that both lived at Bergen; and had Helmigh<sup>4</sup>, born March 11, 1704, and Aegtje<sup>4</sup>, born October 18, 1708, whose births are recorded in Bergen. He was elected a deacon at Acquackanonck (now Passaic), N. J., May 26, 1720.
- ii. Pieter Helmigse<sup>3</sup> Van Houte, born January 23, 1680; married Claretje (Claesje) Post, at Bergen, April 8, 1703, and had Jannetje<sup>4</sup>, born February 16, 1704 (Bergen record). He was elected a deacon by the united consistories of Hackensack and Acquackanonck, in May, 1710; and an elder, May 26, 1720.
- iii. Cornelis Helmigsen<sup>3</sup> Van Houten, baptized March 21, 1682; married Aagtje Johannissen Vreeland (39), April 19, 1711. His death, October 4, 1748, is recorded in Bergen.
- iv. Catelyntje Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, born February 17, 1685; married Johannis Gerritsen (Van Wagenen) (8).
- v. Jacob Helmigse<sup>3</sup> Van Houten, born October 11, 1687;

\* I quote from memory of the original church record of the marriage, which I inspected many years ago.

† I do not know that the final "n" is found in the original record.

‡ P. 84. Brest, France, does not seem a probable starting-point for one bearing a name so thoroughly Dutch as Pieter Merselise, though the New Netherlanders were in the habit of giving a Dutch form to English and French names recorded by them. Neesje Pieterse, who married Gerrit Gerritse (Van Wagenen) (2) of Bergen, May 11, 1681, was from Best in Gelderland. May she not have been the daughter of Pieter Merselise, "Brest" being a misprint for "Best" in the "History"? <sup>(a)</sup>

§ This marriage is recorded also in Bergen under date of December 15, 1711.

*@ In a list of "Early Immigrants to New Netherland" in "Catalogue of the  
Vol. III part 1" he is described as "Pieter Nardalis van Gucht".*



- married Marytje Sikkels, in New York, June 10, 1718, when it is stated that both lived in Bergen.
- vi. Dirck Helmigse<sup>3</sup> Van Houte, born October 11, 1687; married Metje Gerrebrantse, in Bergen, September 9, 1711. He was a deacon at Acquackanonck in 1722.
- vii. Gerritje Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, born January 7, 1691; married Arie Sip (6).
- viii. Lysbet Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, born October 16, 1693; married Johannis Post in 1713.
5. ix. Johannis Helmigse<sup>3</sup> Van Houte, born October 28, 1696; died December 18, 1768.
- x. Jannetje or Jenneke Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, born November 2, 1699; married Michael Cornelise Vreeland (50), in New York, October 23, 1718.\*
3. Cornelis Roelofse<sup>2</sup> married Magdaleena Van Giesen, November 14, 1677. He was one of the patentees of Acquackanonck, March 16, 1684, and progenitor of one branch of the Van Houtens, some of whom still occupy land in that place, inherited from him.† His widow married Sander Egberse, widower of Elsie Staets, April 20, 1701. Cornelis<sup>2</sup> and Magdaleena had the following children, whose birth or baptism is recorded in Bergen:
- i. Grietje<sup>3</sup>, born August 10, 1678.
- ii. Roelof Cornelise<sup>3</sup> Van Houte, baptized December 31, 1679, who lived in Acquackanonck when he married Jannetie Janse Spier, January 1, 1715.
- iii. Rynier<sup>3</sup>, ‡ baptized December 9, 1681.
- iv. Hendrick Cornelise<sup>3</sup> Van Houte, born November 8, 1683, whose widow, Magdaleena Bruyn, married Hessel Pieterse, February 6, 1714.
- v. Dirckje<sup>3</sup>, born November 27, 1685.
- vi. Johannis Cornelise<sup>3</sup> Van Houte, born October 6, 1687, married Trintie Pieterse, November 1, 1712, at which time he was living at Acquackanonck.
- vii. Cornelis<sup>3</sup>, § baptized October 22, 1690.
4. Tonis, || Theunis, or Teunis Roelofse<sup>2</sup> married Treintje Claes Kuyper, January 8, 1678. He removed to Rockland (then a part of Orange) County, New York. As one of the "Committee of Safety," he signed the commission of Jacob Leisler as "Captain of the Fort" at New York, June 8, 1689, and as "Commander in Chief" August 16, 1689; and he, with others, signed also a letter dated "Fort William in

\* Not 1713, as in Vreeland Genealogy, "Winfield's History," p. 447.

† Clayton's "History of Bergen and Passaic Counties."

‡ This may be the Reynier Van House who married, 1st, Anne Stevens, and, 2d, January 26, 1718, at Hackensack, Lea Davids DeMaree. The record of the second marriage states that he lived on "York Island." Rev. David D. Demarest, D.D., mentioning this marriage in his "Huguenots on the Hackensack" [New Brunswick, N. J., 1886], p. 22, calls him "Rynier Van Houten."

§ The omission of the hereditary surname in any case in this generation signifies no more than that I have not found evidence of its use, which has been uniform in the subsequent generations of the Bergen branch of the family, *i.e.*, the descendants of Johannis Helmigse<sup>3</sup>.

|| He is called "Tadeus," incorrectly, in the list of marriages, "Land Titles," pp. 337. 345.

N. Yorke ye 28 Octobr 1689," delivered by Jacob Milborne to a convention in Albany, November 9, 1689. He was commissioned a "justice" for Orange, by Leisler, December 14, 1689.\* He died July 27, 1737, and his wife August 20, 1734. Their children were:

- i. Gerritje<sup>3</sup>, born January 10, 1679.
- ii. Roelof Teunese<sup>2</sup> Van Houte, born August 28, 1680; married Maritie Huyberse Blaeuveldt.
- iii. Annetje<sup>3</sup>, born August 13, 1682.
- iv. Klaes<sup>3</sup>, baptized in New York, July 12, 1685.
- v. Jannetje<sup>3</sup>, baptized May 23, 1687.
- vi. Vrouwte<sup>3</sup>, baptized June 24, 1688.
- vii. Kornelia<sup>3</sup>.
- viii. Johannis<sup>3</sup>, baptized in October, 1690.
- ix. Vrouwte<sup>3</sup> † Van Houte, baptized in New York May 8, 1692; married Cornelis Smidt. At the baptism, in Hackensack, February 7, 1724, of their son Teunis, the witnesses were Teunis Van Houte and Trintie his wife.
- x. Elizabeth<sup>3</sup>, baptized at Tappan, N. Y., April 15, 1696.
- xi. Pieterje<sup>3</sup>, baptized at Tappan, October 12, 1698.
- xii. Grietje<sup>3</sup>, baptized at Tappan, October 16, 1700.
- xiii. Grietje<sup>3</sup>, baptized at Tappan, April 16, 1702.

The birth or baptism of i., ii., iii., v., vi., and viii. is recorded in Bergen. My information in regard to the other children is derived principally from a genealogy of the Van Houten family (confined to the descendants of Theunis<sup>2</sup>) published with the genealogy of the "Cole Family," by Rev. David Cole, D.D., of Yonkers, N. Y. The dates of the deaths of Theunis<sup>2</sup> and his wife were furnished me by Dr. Cole, who obtained them from a family Bible after the publication of his book.

Cornelis<sup>2</sup> and Tonis<sup>2</sup> and their male descendants, and those of all of the sons of Helmigh<sup>2</sup>, except Johannis, early disappear from the records and annals of Bergen.

5. Johannis Helmigse<sup>3</sup> Van Houte (Helmigh Roelofse<sup>2</sup>, Roelof<sup>1</sup>) married, June 17, 1719, in New York, Helena Johannise Vreeland (40), who died March 15, 1774. He was awarded one hundred and sixty-eight and one-half acres of the commons of Bergen in the partition of 1764, which was based upon the amount of patented land owned by the respective freeholders. The children of Johannis and Helena were:

6. i. Helmigh<sup>4</sup>, born in ~~1728 or~~ 1729, *born 22, baptized at August 1729*
7. ii. Johannis or John<sup>4</sup>, baptized June 17, 1735; died August 10, 1814.

6. Helmigh<sup>4</sup> Van Houte (Johannis Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, Helmigh Roelofse<sup>2</sup>, Roelof<sup>1</sup>) "departed this life October 23, 1803, in the seventy-fifth year of his age," says his tombstone. His will, dated five days earlier, recited that he was "very sick." December 11, 1764, he was appointed, by an instrument signed by all of the "Freeholders, Inhabitants of the Township of Bergen," to be one of three trustees to appropriate the surplus of moneys arising from a sale by the commissioners of certain

\* O'Callaghan's "Documentary History of the State of New York," pp. 11, 24, 116, 348. Another signer in each case and member of the "Committee of Safety" was Jean De Marest, mentioned below.

† Where two children of the same parents bear the same Christian name, it is to be assumed that the elder died before the baptism of the younger.

*See also Van Houten "The Dutch and French Colonies in America," Vol. II, Appendix.*



tracts of the common lands to defray the expenses of the partition.\* He, his son John H., and grandson Helmigh, were owners of negro slaves, as shown by bills of sale among their papers, cited herein as the "Van Houten Papers." These were received in an old chest by my grandmother, Mrs. Jane Tise, of Jersey City (Jane<sup>2</sup> Van Houten), from her mother, her father having died in her childhood. Beside private papers, principally those of Helmigh<sup>4</sup>, there are many pertaining to his service as public trustee. He married his second cousin Aagtje (Aegie, Eegje, Effee,) Vreeland (56). Their marriage bond was dated May 4, 1753. The Bergen Church record states that she was born September 18, 1733, and died September 26, 1803; her tombstone records that she "departed this life September 27, 1803, in the seventy-second year of her age." Their children were:

8.
  - i. Johannis, or John H.<sup>5</sup>, baptized in Hackensack April 21, 1754; Jacob De Mot and wife, witnesses.
  - ii. Jenneke<sup>6</sup>, born November 13, 1756.
  - iii. Michael<sup>6</sup>, born March 9, 1761.
  - iv. Jenneke<sup>6</sup>, born October 16, 1762, died unmarried November 24, 1795.
  - v. Michael<sup>6</sup>, born December 17, 1768, married Aeltje Van Horn (16), December 15, 1793, and died without issue June 1, 1803.
7. Johannis<sup>4</sup> Van Houte (Johannis Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, Helmigh Roelofse<sup>2</sup>, Roelof<sup>1</sup>) was named as a deacon in the charter granted to the Bergen Church by George III. in 1771.† He married Aeltje Sickles, who died May 6, 1796, and had:
  9.
    - i. Johannis<sup>5</sup>, born January 22, 1763, died July 19, 1840.
    - ii. Sara, born February 15, 1775.
  8. Johannis or John H.<sup>5</sup> Van Houte (Helmigh<sup>4</sup>, Johannis Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, Helmigh Roelofse<sup>2</sup>, Roelof<sup>1</sup>) "departed this life August 5, 1818, aged 64 years, 4 months and 26 days," says his tombstone. The "H" is the initial of his patronymic, "Helmigse," used according to a custom still followed in many Dutch families. He married Rachel De Maree, who was baptized in Schraalenburgh, April 11, 1757, died February 11, 1843, in her 86th year, and was the daughter of David, eldest son of David, eldest son of David, eldest son of Jean, eldest son of David ~~Des~~ Maree, the emigrant ancestor of the Demarest family, born at Beauchamp, in Picardy, France, who was the son of Jean ~~Des~~ Maree<sup>1</sup>. The children of John H.<sup>5</sup> and Rachel were:
    10.
      - i. Helmigh<sup>6</sup>, born August 1, 1779, died March 4, 1822.
      - ii. Catrintje<sup>6</sup> or Catharine, born November 14, 1781, married Jacob Zabriskie, December 12, 1801, died December 21, 1821.
      - iii. Aegie<sup>6</sup>, born August 27, 1783, married, 1st, Mindert Garabrants (41), November 13, 1800; 2d, Richard Lyon, February 13, 1811, and died February 28, 1853.

\* "Land Titles," p. 136 (note). His associates were (1) Hendricus Kuyper, who, I suppose, is the Henricus Kuyper of New Jersey named as a trustee in the charter of 1770 of Queens (now Rutgers) College; and (2) Johannis Jurianse (Van Ripen) (28), father of Gerrit Van Ripen (60) mentioned below.

† "Annals of Classis and Township of Bergen," by Benj. C. Taylor, D.D., p. 121.

‡ See "The Huguenots on the Hackensack."

9. Johannis (John)<sup>5</sup> Van Houten (Johannis<sup>4</sup>, Johannis Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, Helmigh Roelofse<sup>2</sup>, Roelof<sup>1</sup>) married Annatje Collerd, December 19, 1782, and had :

- i. Geertje<sup>6</sup>, born February 10, 1784, married Christophel Van Ripen (82).
  - ii. Johannis<sup>6</sup>, born February 11, 1789.
  - iii. Aeltje<sup>6</sup>, born January 9, 1791, married Peter Earle.
  - iv. Sara<sup>6</sup>, born June 25, 1795.
  - v. Annetje<sup>6</sup>, born March 15, 1798.
  - vi. Johannis<sup>6</sup>, born August 27, 1802, died February 17, 1837.
10. Helmigh<sup>6</sup> Van Houte (John H.<sup>5</sup>, Helmigh<sup>4</sup>, Johannis Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, Helmigh Roelofse<sup>2</sup>, Roelof<sup>1</sup>) married Catlyntje (Catharine), daughter of Gerrit Van Ripen (60), December 7, 1799. She married, 2d, January 3, 1829, Jacob Zabriskie, whose first wife, as mentioned above, was Catrintje<sup>6</sup> Van Houten, and died at the house of her daughter, Jane Tise, October 19, 1856, not, as stated in the "Land Titles,"\* before her father, who died August 31, 1837. The children of Helmigh<sup>6</sup> and his wife Catharine were :

- i. Catharine<sup>7</sup>, born September 20, 1800; married John G. Vreeland (171).
  - ii. John H.<sup>7</sup>, born August 27, 1803, and died October 31, 1807, according to the lists; but his tombstone states that on the latter date he was aged 4 years, 2 months, and 1 week.
  - iii. Gerrit<sup>7</sup>, born September 10, 1806; died, unmarried, September 8, 1832.
  - iv. Rachel<sup>7</sup>, married Garret Newkirk (44).
  - v. Elizabeth V. R.<sup>7</sup>, born July 23, 1811; married Jacob Greenlief.
  - vi. John H.<sup>7</sup>, born April 29, 1814; married Eliza Cubberly, and removed to Berlin, Wis.
12. vii. Jane<sup>7</sup>, born November 7, 1816; died in Jersey City, November 13, 1888.
- viii. Helmigh, born January 12, 1821, must have died in infancy.
11. Johannis<sup>6</sup> Van Houten (Johannis<sup>5</sup>, Johannis<sup>4</sup>, Johannis Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, Helmigh Roelofse<sup>2</sup>, Roelof<sup>1</sup>) married Sally Mandeville, December 20, 1821, and had :
- i. Nicholas M.<sup>7</sup>, born March 11, 1822; removed to the vicinity of Belleville, N. J., and married there.
  - ii. John<sup>7</sup>, born April 13, 1825, married Emma Franks, and removed to Illinois.
12. Jane<sup>7</sup> Van Houten (Helmigh<sup>6</sup>, John H.<sup>5</sup>, Helmigh<sup>4</sup>, Johannis Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, Helmigh Roelofse<sup>2</sup>, Roelof<sup>1</sup>) married Richard<sup>8</sup>, son of George Tise, and Sarah<sup>8</sup>,† daughter of John Peter<sup>6</sup> Van Houten, of Pompton,

\* P. 76 (note). In the "List of Births" the name of Gerrit's first wife, Catrintje Van Wagenen, who was the mother only of his first child, is given as the mother of four others, including Catlyntje, who were in fact the daughters of his second wife, Catrintje Van Ripen; but this is corrected in the Van Ripen Genealogy in the "History." He and his second wife had one daughter not mentioned in the Genealogy, viz., Jannetje, born in October, 1791, and baptized in Hackensack, January 22, 1792, the witnesses being Nicholas Toers and his wife Jannetje Van Rypen (58), aunt of the child's mother.

† No. 7485 in "Descendants of Peter Willemse Roome," by P. R. Warner [New York, 1883]. She gave me the names of her father and his parents.

N. J., son of Peter Van Houten and Rachel Lyons. Jane<sup>7</sup> and Richard Tise had children :

- i. Rachel Demarest<sup>8</sup> Tise, married, 1st, Charles Lawton Washburn, of Raynham, Mass.,\* who died February 7, 1857, and had Charles Lawton Demarest<sup>9</sup> Washburn, B.S., Rutgers, 1875 ; 2d, Matthew Joseph Ramsey, of Pittsboro, N. C., and had Edmund Payton<sup>9</sup> Ramsey.
- ii. Sarah Catharine<sup>8</sup> Tise.
- iii. George<sup>8</sup> Tise, served in the Civil War in the Twenty-first Regiment New Jersey Volunteers, in 1862-63 ; married Rachel Amelia,† daughter of Harrison Wallis, of Bladensburg, Md., and had George<sup>9</sup> Tise, died unmarried, June 17, 1890; Mary Wallis<sup>9</sup> Tise, and Natie Van Houten<sup>9</sup> Tise.
- iv. Garret Van Reyden<sup>8</sup> Tise, died, unmarried, October 9, 1837.
- v. Abraham Martin<sup>8</sup> Tise, died in infancy.

"As to the Van Houten family," says Mr. Winfield, in the "Land Titles,"‡ "I have gathered the following : Helmigh Roelofse married Jannetje Pieterse, Sept., 1676. The 'Van Houten' was afterwards added as a family name. Houte, or houten, means wooden ; from hout, wood. Roelofse had ten children, among whom was Johannis, born Oct. 28, 1696, married Helena, daughter of Johannis Vreeland, and died Dec. 18, 1768. This is the Van Houten named in the Field Book. He left one son, Johannis, baptized June 17, 1735, married (1st) Altje, daughter of Hendrick Sickles, (2d) Rachel De Maree, and died Oct. 31, 1807, leaving Johannis, Sara, Helmig, Catrintje, and Aegie. Catrintje married Jacob Zabriskie."

Among the "Van Houten Papers" is a certified copy of the will of Helmigh<sup>4</sup> ("Hellemagh," "Halmah") Van Houten, "farmer," dated October 18, 1803, annexed to the original letters testamentary, issued December 3, 1803, to "Hallemigh Van Houte, one of the executors in the said testament named," which nominates "my son John Van Houten and my grandson Halmah Van Houten" as executors, and devises variously to them and to "my two granddaughters Catharine the wife of Jacob Zabriskie and Efee the wife of Mindert Garribrants." This will is cited in the "Land Titles,"§ but incorrectly, as Catharine and Efee are called the daughters of the testator.

The identification of Johannis<sup>4</sup>, who was baptized June 17, 1735, married Aeltje Sickles, and had children Johannis and Sara, with Johannis<sup>8</sup>, the husband of Rachel DeMaree, and father of Helmigh, Catrintje, and Aegie, is thus proved erroneous. The former was the only child of Johannis Helmigse Van Houte baptized in Bergen, according to the list of baptisms in the "Land Titles," and hence, evidently, arose the error. ~~Probably~~ Helmigh<sup>4</sup>, the elder son, was baptized elsewhere. Although the church was organized in 1660 there was no settled minister in the town until 1757, and in many cases the marriages and baptisms of the people were performed in other churches. We find in the list of deaths

\* See pamphlet genealogy of the Washburns of Raynham, by Hon. Elihu B. Washburne [1859].

† Her mother, Mary Goldsmith, was the grandniece of George Clinton, afterward Vice-President of the United States, who was surveyor to the commissioners who partitioned the common lands of Bergen.

‡ P. 320 (note).

§ P. 313 (note).

that it was "John Van Houten, son of Helmigh," who died October 31, 1807. This, however, was neither Johannis<sup>4</sup> nor his nephew Johannis<sup>5</sup>, but the grandson of the latter, John<sup>6</sup>, a child of four years.

That Johannis Helmighse<sup>3</sup> had two sons is shown elsewhere in the "Land Titles." In the text of the "Field Books" \* a certain allotment is adjudged "to belong to Johannis Van Houta" (*sic*), and the accompanying note states that it "must have been divided between Van Houten's two sons, Helmigh and John." In another note † we find a sale, in 1806, of the front part of a lot of several acres by John Van Houte, who "had previously released the rear part to his brother Helmigh."

Subsequently to the publication of the "Land Titles" Mrs. Tise filed with the Register of Hudson County, ‡ under the New Jersey statute respecting "ancient deeds," a conveyance dated July 8, 1774, made by "John Van Houten of the Township of Bergen, Bergen County, Province of East New Jersey, Gentleman," to "Helmigh Van Houten of the same place and province, Gentleman," which recites that Johannes Van Houten, late of Bergen, by his last will and testament "bequeathed" to his two sons, John and Helmigh, his real estate in said township. If there be any doubt that this father was the son of Helmigh Roelofse, it is dispelled by another deed, of May 24, 1784, still among the "Van Houten Papers," unacknowledged and unrecorded, but signed, sealed in wax, and witnessed, in which "John Van Houte Sen'r" of Bergen, "farmer," quitclaims "unto his brother Helmigh Van Houte" of Bergen, "farmer," all of his interest in a certain lot of land "allotted (by the commissioners who were appointed to make division of the Commons of Bergen) out of the Commons of Bergen, and out of the patent of Guert Courte, to the late Johannis *Halmighse* Van Houte of the Town of Bergen, deceased."

In connection with an allotment to Johannis Van Houte it is stated in the "Land Titles" § that his son-in-law, Jacob Zabriskie, sold the land in 1846. This confuses "the Van Houten named in the Field Book" with his grandson Johannis<sup>5</sup>, father-in-law of Jacob Zabriskie, but indicates the descent of the land from the one to the other.

In 1764 Johannis Van Houten owned a piece of land covered by the patent of Governor Stuyvesant to Jacob Luby, dated September 14, 1662. || The original patent is among the "Van Houten Papers," a fact further testifying to descent from the Van Houten of the "Field Book." It is perfectly preserved, and bears the seal of New Netherland in wax, and the signature of "P. Stuyvesant."

My grandmother, born in the old Van Houten homestead, now in the northern part of Jersey City, was interested from childhood in the traditions of her family. The names of Helmigh Roelofse and Jannetje Pieterse were household words to her, and through her to me, before we first saw them in print in the "Land Titles." Her uniform statement of her line of descent was as I have given it. She must have conversed with many older persons who had known several generations of the family; e.g., her maternal grandfather, who died when she was twenty years of age, in whose house she lived while attending the old Columbia Acad-

\* "Land Titles," p. 259.

† "Land Titles," p. 249.

‡ Hudson County was formed from the territory of Bergen County in 1840.

§ P. 225 (note).

|| ~~Id.~~ p. 102 and note.

*/Land Titles*

emy near by, and near whom she resided after her early marriage, had reached the age of nineteen when Johannis Helmigse<sup>3</sup> died; and therefore, in so small a community, he must have been intimately acquainted with the entire line of Van Houtens after Helmigh Roelofse. Doubtless he was the "Gerrit Van Ryper" who witnessed the will of Helmigh.<sup>4</sup>

The paternity of Jannetje Pieterse is shown in another of the "Van Houten Papers," a deed dated June 30, 1712, signed, sealed in wax and witnessed, but not acknowledged or recorded. The grantor is Jacob Matthewson Van Newkerk (6). It is recited that his grandfather, Jacob Lubie, was possessed of a certain farm and lots of land "about the Town of Bergen" and "also of houselots lying within the said town";\* that Matthew Cornelisson Van Newkerk (1), father of the grantor, "was possessed of a small slip of land . . . about the Town aforesaid . . . so crooked and in near a half moon's figure as at present it is comprehended in its fence"; that the said "Lubie was prevented by death to convey the recited farm, parcel and lots of land . . . to Peter Marcellus, father-in-law to Helmigh Roelofson of Bergen, the grantee," or to Helmigh himself, to whom said Peter had afterwards transferred the same; and that said Matthew "was prevailed [*sic*] by death before he could legally convey the recited slip of land to the said Helmigh Roelofson, who purchased and paid for the same." Therefore the grantor, "eldest grandson, son and heir" of Jacob Lubie and Matthew Cornelisson Van Newkerk, conveys all of the land mentioned to the grantee.

Mr. Winfield† relates the following: "Tradition says that Dominie Jackson, an uncompromising Whig among the uncertain patriots of Bergen during the Revolution, once preached a caustic sermon from Matt. xxvi., 15, applying the text to his Tory hearers—some of them of his own congregation. For this he was arrested and taken before the commanding general in New York. He was asked why he preached against his Majesty. He confessed the fact and justified it as the performance of his duty. He was forgiven and permitted to return home. One day *old* Helmigh Van Houten found fault with the political complexion of his sermon. The dominie replied, Lord Howe has forgiven me; can't you?" Undoubtedly Helmigh<sup>4</sup> is referred to, but he was only fifty-five years of age at the close of the war.

On August 10, 1807, Mindert Garrabrants, Jr. (41), "executed to John Van Houten the father and Helmah Van Houten the brother of his wife a conveyance in fee simple of all his real estate, including a tract of about fifty acres at Slonger," in trust for certain purposes. John<sup>6</sup> and Helmah (Helmigh<sup>6</sup>), the trustees, "died in the lifetime of the cestui qui trusts, and John H. Van Houten, the only son and heir at law‡ of Helmah Van Houten, the surviving trustee, made a conveyance of the trust property specified in the deed of trust to the two daughters of Mindert Garrabrants 3<sup>rd</sup> as the only lawful issue of the said Mindert Garrabrants 2<sup>nd</sup> living at his death." Out of these and other facts grew the well-known cases—Price v. Sisson, 2 Beas. (13 N. J. Eq.), 168, from which I have quoted, and Weehawken Ferry Co. v. Sisson, 2 C. E. Gr. (17 N. J. Eq.), 475.

\* The centre of the town proper was the present Bergen Square, Jersey City.

† "History," p. 385.

‡ The law of primogeniture still prevails in New Jersey in the case of trust estates.

I have ~~not~~ traced the ancestry of Sarah Van Houten, wife of George Tise, back to Roelof<sup>1</sup>; ~~but~~ the names of her father and grandfather ~~seem to indicate~~ descent from Pieter Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, the only Van Houten of the third generation who bore that Christian name. Three of her children married Bergen Van Houtens; viz., (1) Richard Tise, as shown above; (2) Martin Tise married Nancy<sup>7</sup> Van Ripen (111) (Geertje<sup>6</sup> Van Houten, Johannis<sup>5</sup>, Johannis<sup>4</sup>, Johannis Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, Helmigh Roelofse<sup>2</sup>, Roelof<sup>1</sup>); (3) Hannah Tise married John<sup>8</sup> Brinkerhoff (42) (Hartman<sup>7</sup> Brinkerhoff, Leah<sup>6</sup> Van Wagenen, Johannis<sup>5</sup> Van Wagenen, Helmigh<sup>4</sup> Van Wagenen Catlyntje Helmigse<sup>3</sup>, Helmigh Roelofse<sup>2</sup> Van Houten, Roelof<sup>1</sup>).

Helmigh<sup>4</sup>, his wife, his son John H.<sup>5</sup>, daughter Jenneke<sup>5</sup> (born 1762) grandson Helmigh<sup>6</sup> Van Houte, granddaughter Catharine<sup>6</sup>, wife of Jacob Zabriskie, and great-grandson John H.<sup>7</sup> (born 1803) are buried in a single row of graves immediately adjoining, on the north, the old Bergen Church site. Rachel (DeMaree), widow of John H.<sup>5</sup>, their daughter Aegie<sup>6</sup> Lyon, and Catharine (Van Ripen), widow of Jacob Zabriskie, are interred in the main cemetery on the east side of Bergen Avenue. The tombstone inscriptions, all perfectly legible, are my authority for many dates.

Mr. Winfield's etymology of the name "Van Houten" is worthy of Diedrich Knickerbocker, and, as a descendant of Helmigh Roelofse, I must respectfully protest against it. It is true that "hout" means wood, but a glance at a Dutch dictionary shows that it also means *a* wood, in the sense of a collection of trees. Van Houten is thus equivalent to the French "Du Bois" and the English names "Wood" and, more exactly, "Atwood." Anthony à Wood, the historian of Oxford, who is aptly quoted on the title page of the "Land Titles" as to the difficulty of such a work,\* exemplifies, in his name, the English form. I am not a Dutch scholar, and cannot explain the endings "e" and "en" added to "hout," but exactness on such a point is not to be looked for in surnames. The lack of the definite article is no more remarkable than in "Atwood" or "à Wood," or in numerous Dutch names, as "Van Dyck" and "Van Zandt."

It is well known that the immigrant ancestors frequently took their surnames from their former homes in Holland, the prefix "van" signifying "from" or "of." In that country the patronymic, changing with each generation, survived much longer than with the English race, with whom they came in contact in the New World, and whose system of fixed family names they adopted.† In Lancashire there is a village called simply "Wood," from which, doubtless, some English families have derived that surname. Is it not probable that the children of Roelof emigrated from a similarly named hamlet, Hout or Houte, in the Netherlands, perhaps unknown to the gazetteer? (C)

\* "A painfull work it is, I'll assure you, and more than difficult, wherein what toyle hath been taken, and as no man thinketh so no man believeth, but he hath made the triall."

† Hereditary surnames derived from places were coming into general use in Holland about the same time. A recent writer in the "Outlook" (January 25, 1896, p. 146), in an article on "the greatest of Northern painters," who died in 1669, says that his "name was Rembrandt Harmenszoon (shortened later [to Harmensz]; 'zoon' meant the son of Harmen) Van Rijn (because he lived on the banks of the Rhine.)" Since writing the text I have found that Dr. Cole, in his genealogy, assumes that Van Houten is a place name.

Marten, son of Cornelis Haccen, ancestor of President Van Buren, who came to America in 1681, "deceased in later years that he was born in Houten" ["in the Province of Utrecht"] "a village but few miles from Buren" "in the Province of Gelderland, Holland". *U.S. G. & C. Record Vol. 11, pp. 123, 207.*

#### ADDENDA.

The statement above (p. 3), that Dirck Helmigse<sup>3</sup> Van Houte was a deacon at Acquackanonck is based on the Hackensack record, which says that he was chosen "*in place of his brother Roelof*"; but he is not mentioned in the list of elders and deacons in the Acquackanonck records, publication of which has been begun in "The Church Tablet" of the "Old First Church" of Passaic, N. J. (October, 1896). In addition to the services mentioned, Pieter Helmigse<sup>3</sup> Van Houte was chosen deacon for Acquackanonck, May 30, 1717.

Mr. D. Versteeg's "Sketch of the Early History of the Reformed Dutch Church of Bergen in Jersey City, compiled from the Ancient Church Records" [New York, 1889], frequently refers to the Van Houtens and their connections. It is stated (p. 25) that on May 1, 1708, the Voorlezer, Adrian Vermeulen, "concluded his first marriage at Bergen in presence of the Justice Helmigh Roelofse Van Houten."

Mr. W<sup>m</sup> Nelson of Paterson has prepared a fuller genealogy of the Van Houtens for publication in his History of Paterson(?)









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