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# The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record

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With this issue we begin the genealogy of the Lassen/Lassing/Lossing/Lawson family of Dutchess County. In her first contribution to the RECORD, Donna Ewins has done a masterful job of sorting out the early generations of this large family, a task which has discouraged many others particularly because of the repetition of given names. The initial installment deals with the family founder, and is a reminder of the fascinating detail that can be retrieved on the lives of 17th century New Yorkers.

Our second article, by John Dobson, another new author, establishes no less than five marriages for New Netherland settler Swaentje Jans. Another unusual aspect of her story is her earlier residence in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia), documented by the church register of Batavia (Jakarta).

We continue three genealogies from the previous issue. In the next to last installment of his study of the Huestis family of Westchester County, Gordon Remington presents new data on the family's English roots and begins his genealogical summary which corrects a number of errors in earlier accounts. The conclusion of David Voorhees' paper on the Milbornes includes his treatment of Jacob Milborne, a key figure in Leisler's Rebellion, providing new insight on family and other relationships underlying that crucial period of New York history. And Barbara Barth concludes her study of the Allings of Oyster Bay with accounts of the founder's five children.

The issue also includes a mid-19th century record of civil marriages in Morrisania, discovered in a court docket book by Charles Farrell.

Should none of the genealogies in this issue concern "your families," don't just set the issue aside. If the family in the article lived in the same place as one of your families, the sources used by the author may also help you. Or perhaps one of the problems resolved resembles one you have encountered, and the author's methodology may be of interest. All articles have been critiqued and edited by highly experienced genealogists, and the format in which they are presented is one others can emulate. And finally, each article gives us a picture of life in New York in times past, helping us to better understand our history. So, even if these articles don't deal with "your families," we hope that you will find them edifying and enjoyable.

# SWAENTJE JANS AND HER FIVE HUSBANDS

BY JOHN BLYTHE DOBSON\*

In the late spring or early summer of 1651 there arrived in New Netherland a couple named Cornelis de Potter and Swaentje Jans, with daughters Elisabeth de Potter and Adriaentje, variously called de Potter or Bleyck.<sup>[1]</sup> When these daughters were married within months of each other in 1653, each was said to be from “Batavia in Ostindien,” i.e. the place now known as Jakarta on the island of Java in Indonesia.<sup>[2]</sup> Their exotic birthplace (or former residence), and the fact that both women left descendants, has invited considerable speculation as to their origins. In 1874, Edmund B. O’Callaghan, operating on information supplied by Teunis G. Bergen, published a brief note in which he stated that Adriaentje was a daughter of Swaentje Jans and Cornelis de Potter, and this claim has been repeated in innumerable later works.<sup>[3]</sup> But in 1900 A. Van Doren Honeyman, in an astute analysis of her mother’s will and related materials, demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt what has since been shown with certainty, that her true surname was Bleyck, that she must have been Swaentje Jans’ daughter by a previous marriage, and that Elisabeth de Potter was not Swaentje’s daughter.<sup>[4]</sup> This left two intriguing questions: Who was Adriaentje’s father, and who was Elisabeth’s mother?

The latter half of the puzzle was solved in 1941, when William J. Hoffman commissioned an examination of the registers of the Dutch Church of Batavia and discovered the marriage intention, dated 22 January 1643, of (in his translation) Cornelis de Potter, widower, to Swaentje Jans, from Embden [i.e. Emden, in Ostfriesland], widow of Joris Felten, formerly skipper in the service of the East India Company. As their

\* ~~4 Cromer Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2M 4C5.~~ The author would like to thank Interlending and Document Supply Services of the University of Winnipeg Library and Dorothy A. Koenig for their assistance in obtaining some of the materials used in the preparation of this paper, Otto Schutte for his help in transcribing and translating the Batavia church records, David W. Voorhees for providing access to his new edition of the Flatbush Dutch Church register in advance of publication, and Henry Hoff and Harry Macy for their careful reading of the manuscript and valuable suggestions and additions.

<sup>1</sup> As “Ariaentje Potters” she witnessed in the Brooklyn Dutch Church a baptism on 17 Feb. 1684 and a marriage on 2 May 1686 (A.P.G. Jos van der Linde, transl. and ed., *New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch, Old First Dutch Reformed Church of Brooklyn, New York, First Book of Records, 1660-1752* [Baltimore, 1983], pp. 123, 217). She is however called “Ariaentje Bleyck” in the record (cited below) of her first marriage in 1653, “Adriaentje Bleycks” in the list of the early members of the New York Dutch Church (REC. 9:40), and (posthumously) “Adriaentje Blyck” in a conveyance of 1702 (REC. 5:158). Her mother’s will and the accompanying documents never give her a surname. She is posthumously called “Adriaentje Blijck” in the record of her second husband’s last marriage; see *Records of The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush, Kings County, New York*, Vol. 1, transl. and ed. David William Voorhees (New York: Holland Society of New York, 1998), p. 267.

<sup>2</sup> *Marriages from 1639 to 1801 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New Amsterdam - New York City*, Collections of The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, vol. 9, 1940, p. 18. Elisabeth married Isaac Bedloo; Adriaentje married Joannes Nevius.

<sup>3</sup> REC. 5:158. Bergen’s own subsequent account of Cornelis de Potter in his *Register . . . of the Early Settlers of Kings County* (New York, 1881), p. 95, is seriously flawed, as we have shown in two notes in *New Netherland Connections*, 2(1997):38, 3(1998):40.

<sup>4</sup> A. Van Doren Honeyman, *Joannes Nevius, Schepen and Third Secretary of New Amsterdam . . . and his descendants*. . . (Plainfield, N.J., 1900) [hereafter Nevius genealogy], pp. 75-81, 669-74.

respective daughters were themselves married only ten years later, it is clear that the girls could not have been the product of this marriage. Hoffman's discovery of the baptismal records of two children of Cornelis de Potter by a previous wife, namely Abraham (1635) and the aforesaid Elisabeth (1636), revealed that their mother was Elisabeth Ser Jacobs.<sup>[5]</sup> The other half of the puzzle is solved in the present paper.

To review relevant previous results, Hoffman surmised that Swaentje Jans had married four times; to wit: (1) to \_\_\_\_\_ Bleyck, (2) to Joris Felten, (3) in 1643, to Cornelis de Potter, and (4) in 1679, to Jan Strycker. He did not suspect that she had yet another husband between Bleyck and Felten, namely Tobias Clouck, of whom more below. No record has been found of any issue by Clouck or Felten (but the Batavia baptismal register is lost or illegible for much of the relevant period), and she was of course well past child-bearing age when she married for the last time. We noticed in the 1994 edition of the International Genealogical Index™ (IGI) an entry stating that Adriaentje Bleyck was born at Batavia on 19 June 1633; but after examining the baptismal register we were unable to confirm this curious assertion, which is clearly incompatible with the documented birth to Swaentje Jans of a son in early 1633. Subsequent inspection of the patrons' submission record on which this IGI entry is based proved it to be very confused, and it does not in fact contain a genuine record of Adriaentje's birth (or baptism), the purported date evidently being either based on a misinterpretation of some printed source, or wholly chimerical.<sup>[6]</sup> We did however come across a number of entries in the Batavia baptismal register bearing on our problem:<sup>[7]</sup>

1626, 21 Júný. Ari[ ]. Ouders: Cornelis Ariaense, Swaentgen Jansse. Getuygen: Pieter Cornelisz, Job Jacobs, Grietgen Jansdr., Annetgen Frericx.

1627, 7 Novemb[ris]. Gommarús. Ouders: Cornelis Ariaenss, Swaentgen Jansdr. Getuygen: Gommarús van der Staen, Iden Ydenss, Catelyntgen Gerrits, Anneken Albrechts.

<sup>5</sup> William J. Hoffman, "An Armory of American Families of Dutch Descent: Bidlo-Bedlo. . .," REC. 72(1941): 221-25, at 225. Hoffman errs in stating that "Swaentie Jans . . . has always been considered to have been the mother of Elisabeth de Potter," for Honeyman (Nevius genealogy, 81) had expressly taken the opposite view more than forty years earlier.

<sup>6</sup> LDS patrons' submission records, batch 8684308, sheet 1 [FHL 1396260], which cites the Nevius genealogy as its only source, but introduces erroneous material which could only have been found in Bergen (*Early Settlers of Kings County*, 95).

<sup>7</sup> Burgerlyke Stand Batavia, Nederlands Hervormde Kerk, Jakarta, Bundel no. 1: Hollandsche Doopboek, 3 September 1623 – 30 Mei 1652 [FHL 1210672], unpaginated. This film includes a valuable 19th-century transcript for most of the years 1623-1633, somewhat compensating for the damaged state and frequent illegibility of the original, which (at least on the microfilm) is missing altogether for 1636-1639. This lacunary period spans the 1636 baptism of Elisabeth de Potter which Hoffman (REC. 72:225) fortunately provides. In our extracts we have added some punctuation for the sake of clarity, but have endeavored to render the spelling and accents exactly.

1631, 24 Aúgustus. Pietertge. Ouders: Cornelis Adriaenss, Swaentge Jans. Getuygen: Mr.[?] Henderick Strouúckman, Wlm. Jacob, Meýns Egberts, Agnieten — [blank], Stýntge Joosten.

1633, 17 Maert. Cornelis. Ouders: Cornelis Adriaensz, Swaentge Jans. Getuygen: Mr. Hendrik Stroukmans, Harmen Goosen, Claes Theúnis, Maria van Auken, Jorýntge Joris.

1635, 22 April. Grietie. Ouders: Cornelis Aersz. van Delft, metselaer, Swaentie Cornelisdr. van Embden. Getuygen: Couúrt Claesz van Haerlem[?], backer; Jacob Dircksz uýt den Broeck, van Schiedam, cúýper; Lisbet Pars, van Siam; Catalina Hendricksdr., van Ternata; Niesie Matheús, van Battavia.

Despite the appearance of Swaentje Jans as “Swaentje Cornelisdr.” in the last record — and the attribution to a woman of her *husband’s* first name as a patronymic is not unheard of in 17th-century records — these data are in good agreement with the few known facts regarding Swaentje, particularly her place of birth.

We thus have here the long-sought identity of Swaentje’s first husband (and Adriaentje Bleyck’s father), Cornelis Adriaens, including his occupation of mason. As we have discovered no record of this marriage per se, it is most fortunate that the somewhat illegible reference to Delft as his place of origin is confirmed by the record of his widow’s next marriage, to be cited below.<sup>[8]</sup>

Honeyman remarked upon the “singular fact” that in the baptismal records of one of Adriaentje’s children by Jan Aersen, her surname is given as Cornelis.<sup>[9]</sup> On this point Kenn Stryker-Rodda commented, “Adriaentje Bleijck . . . was once [actually twice, at Brooklyn] recorded as Adriaentje Potters and [once as] Adriana Cornelis, probably because the clerk or minister knew her stepfather, the prosperous Cornelis de Potter, but didn’t know he was Swaentje’s third and fairly recent husband.”<sup>[10]</sup> While this inference was plausible given the state of knowledge at the time, it is now apparent that her patronymic really *was* Cornelis after all, and that the instances in which she is called “Potters” are the only real mistakes. It will be noticed that there is room for Adriaentje to fit into the above family

<sup>8</sup> His daughter Adriaentje is referred to as “Adriana à Braeckel” in the baptismal record of her daughter Johanna in 1668 (*Baptisms from 1639 to 1730 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New York*, Collections of The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, vol. 2, 1901, p. 90); however, as one of the sponsors was Wilhelmus à Braeckel, the surname may have been applied to Adriaentje in error. The Nevius genealogy indicates at p. 40 the possibility Adriaentje’s husband, Joannes Nevius, was descended from a woman named Sara à Braeckel.

<sup>9</sup> Nevius genealogy, 140. Honeyman thought this was so in the baptismal records of her sons Mattheus (1679) and David (1681), relying on the version of the register of the Flatbush Dutch Church published in the *Yearbook of The Holland Society of New York* (1898), 87-152, at 113, 123. It is now known that in the second of these records the word “Cornelis” was inserted, probably by Henry Onderdonk whose transcript was the basis for the *Yearbook* version; cf. the new edition of the register by David W. Voorhees, previously cited, pp. 394, 413.

<sup>10</sup> Kenn Stryker-Rodda, “New Netherland Naming Systems and Customs,” World Conference on Records *Papers* (1969), Area I-27, reprinted in REC. 126:35-45. Dr. Stryker-Rodda left an undated, untitled four-page manuscript on Swaentje Jans in the Manuscript Collection of the NYG&BS Library.

about 1637, and considering that her youngest child was born in 1681 she could hardly have been born much earlier, as Honeyman observed. As will be seen below, Swaentje Jans married Tobias Clouck in early 1640, so Adriaentje must have been born no later than 1639.

It may well be asked what Cornelis Adriaens Bleijck — as it seems we are entitled to call him — was doing in a place like Batavia if he was not a trader or sailor. The answer may be that as a mason, he had been hired to work on construction or repairs in the town, which a view of 1629 depicts as heavily fortified.<sup>[11]</sup>

As for Joris Felten, the third husband of Swaentje Jans, the only new light the present study can throw on him is to give the record of his marriage intention:<sup>[12]</sup>

1641, 5 Júnÿ. Joris V[ec]htenss van den Briel, schipper in dienst van de E. Comp., geboortig van den Briel in Holland, jongeman, ende Swaentje Jans van Emden, weduwe van Thobias Kloúck, zael[ige]r, in syn leeve mede schipper van de E. Comp.

This record introduces some doubt as to the precise spelling of the bridegroom's surname, but we shall continue for convenience to call him Felten. The surprising mention of a prior husband other than Cornelis Adriaens leads us to search for record of the marriage of Swaentje Jans to Tobias Clouck, and we find the following intention:

1640, 19 January. Tobias Clouck, geboortig van der Veer [Veere in Zeeland], schipper in dienst . . . Indi . . . [illegible] Comp., met Swaentje Jans, geboortig van Emden, weduwe van Cornelis ["Adriaens" written higher, above an illegible word], [van] Delft, in syn leve . . . [faded].

Although the ending of this record is barely comprehensible, the words "Cornelis" and "Adriaens" are sufficiently clear to assure us that his widow Swaentje is the same woman as before, and it also provides crucial confirmation that Cornelis was from Delft. For the sake of completeness, we give as fully as possible the text of the marriage intention of Swaentje Jans and Cornelis de Potter, previously reported only in English translation by Hoffman:

1643, 22 Jan. Cornelis de Potter, van Rotterdam, laatst wed[uwnaa]r. van Lysabeth Ser Jacobs, met Swaentien Jans, geboortig van Emden, wed[uw]e van Joris Felten ["Velten" written above in a different hand], in sÿn leven schipper in dienst van de E. Comp.

<sup>11</sup> The original drawing is reproduced in Bernard H.M. Vlekke, *Nusantara: A History of the East Indian Archipelago* (Cambridge, Mass., 1945), facing p. 144, and an engraving of it appears in George Masselman, *The Cradle of Colonialism* (New Haven & London, 1963), p. 444.

<sup>12</sup> This and the following marriage records are from Burgerlijke Stand Batavia, Nederlands Hervormde Kerk, Jakarta, Bundel no. 52: *Hollandsche Trouwboek, 1616-1652* [FHL 1210688], unpaginated. Here are the meanings of some of the words and phrases occurring therein: "geboortig" = born, "zaeliger" = deceased, "weduwe" = widow, "weduwenaar" = widower, "in syn leve" = in his life, "schipper in dienst van de E. Comp." = skipper in the service of the East [India] Company, "mede" = also, "laatst" = lately, recently.

And finally, in translation, the record of her fifth and last marriage at Flatbush, Long Island:

1679, 12 April. (betrothed:) Jan Strijker, widower of Lambertje Seubering, residing in Midwood [i.e. Flatbush], with Swaentje Jans, widow of Cornelis De Potter, living under [the jurisdiction of] Brooklyn, at the ferry; married the 30th of said month, a special day, that is, Wednesday.<sup>[13]</sup>

From these records, we see that Swaentje Jans, between January 1640 and January 1643, was wedded to three different men in the space of three years! Tobias Clouck and Joris Felten were both skippers in the service of the East India Company, and the fact that each died within eighteen months of his marriage, while presumably still in his prime, gives some intimation of the hazards of the work, and the treachery of the climate. Swaentje, during her stay on Java, lost three husbands and quite likely most of her children.

When Hoffman printed the baptismal record of Cornelis de Potter's son Abraham by his first marriage, he did not include the sponsors. Here is the complete record:

1635, 22 February. Abraham. Ouders: Cornelis Potter van 's Graven Hagge, Proc[ureur?] [end of word lost in binding], Elisabeth Ser Jacobs van Leyden. Getuygen: Daniel de Búquoi van Ceúlen, Pauwel Hudden van Amsterdam, Sr. Jaques Park van Middelbúrg, Juffr. Maria van Diemen van Steenb[erghen?] [end of this word also lost in binding], Catharina S[teenber?]ghen van Campen.

It will be observed that the statement here that Cornelis was from 's-Gravenhage (The Hague) contradicts that in the record of his second marriage (1643) quoted above, which makes him from Rotterdam.

Finally, we note that Hoffman's informant overlooked the baptismal records of two children of Cornelis de Potter. After a long, hopelessly illegible stretch in the register, we come upon the following entries:

1644, Martiús, dies tertius. Sara, t'kindt van Cornelis de Potter & — — — [long dashes]. Getuygen: de heer Jústus Schoútens, extraordinaris Raedt van India; Sr. Coenraedt Salomonssen, opperkoopman; Juffr. Catarýna Sweers; Juffr. Peternella Wouderaers; & Juffr. Catalýntje Havers.

1648, primo Octob[ri]s. David, het kindt van Cornelis Potter en N.N. sýn húysvrowe. Getuygen: Sr. Dirck Steúr, Sr. Hendrick van Gendt, David de Potter, Júffr. Petronella Wouderaers, ende Júffr. Sara Wys.

The mother, whose name the clerk did not bother to ascertain, must have been Swaentje Jans, which at last answers the question of whether she and Cornelis de Potter had any children together. Notice that Petronella Wouderaers appears as a sponsor at both baptisms, and that one of the sponsors in the second is a Wys, a point to which we shall return below.

<sup>13</sup> Voorhees, *Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush*, 219.

The main purpose of the present study has been to develop a clear chronology of Swaentje's life in Batavia, to establish the names of her husbands, and to determine the paternity of her daughter Adriaentje. We present this information below in the form of a genealogical summary, for which much of the documentation has already been given. We do not claim to have exhausted all the East Indian sources which might have bearing on her husbands' Company careers, which are perhaps better left to those with greater expertise in Dutch than our own. Furthermore, we have left unaddressed a number of questions which might be answered by European sources.

### Genealogical Summary

SWAENTJE JANS, of unknown parentage, born say 1605<sup>[14]</sup> at Embden in Ostfriesland,<sup>[15]</sup> died presumably at Flatbush, Long Island, in 1686 when her widower paid 20 guilders for her grave.<sup>[16]</sup> She married (1) by 1626, perhaps in Europe, Cornelis Adriaens [Bleijck], from Delft, South Holland, who died almost certainly in 1637-39; (2) 19 January 1640 (date of intention) at Batavia, Tobias Clouck, posthumously called "skipper in the service of the East India Company," who died 1640-41; (3) 5 June 1641 (date of intention) at Batavia, Joris Felten (Velten/Vechtenss) van den Briel, from Briel (now Brielle), South Holland, likewise a skipper in the service of the East India Company, who died 1641-42; (4) 22 January 1643 (date of intention) at Batavia, as his second wife, Cornelis de Potter (see below), widower of Elisabeth Ser Jacobs; and (5) 30 April 1679 in the Flatbush Dutch Church, as his second wife, Jan Strycker,<sup>[17]</sup> of that place, widower of Lambertje Seubering (the mother of all of his children), who after Swaentje's death married thirdly, Teuntje Teunis.

Swaentje and her first husband were at Batavia by 1626, when their first known child was baptized; five others were born over the next decade. As previously noted, we have not discovered issue of her second or third marriages. She and her fourth husband, who had two children together, left for the Netherlands some time after October 1648, were in Amsterdam by 18 March 1651, and in New Netherland by 9 July 1651.<sup>[18]</sup> Little can be

<sup>14</sup> Since her known children were born 1626-1648.

<sup>15</sup> Modern Emden, Niedersachsen, Germany.

<sup>16</sup> Frank L. Van Cleef, transl., "Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush," Marriage Fees, etc., p. 25, typescript, Josephine C. Frost Collection, NYG&BS Library.

<sup>17</sup> The treatment of the Stryckers by Bergen (*Early Settlers of Kings County*, 287-90) is fairly sound, but better ones are given in Hopper Striker Mott, "Jan and Jacobus Strijcker and Some of Their Descendants," REC. 38:1-9; in Howard S.F. Randolph's account of Jan's third wife, entitled "Teuntje Teunis and Her Descendants. . . ." REC. 59:4-16, at 6; and in Rosalie Fellows Bailey's "Signatures of Flatbush, L.I., Settlers," pt. 2, *De Halve Maen* 38:2 (July 1963):11-12, 14-15, at 12, 14. See also William Norman Strycker, *The Strycker Genealogy*, 2 vols. (1991), 1:xx. A portrait supposed to be of Jan Strycker is reproduced in REC. 72: facing p. 268, and discussed in David M. Riker, "The Mystery of Some 17th-Century Dutch Portraits in America," *De Halve Maen* 64(1991):60-62.

<sup>18</sup> This assumes Swaentje traveled with her fourth husband rather than separately.



added to Honeyman's assiduous account of her in America, except to note that in the assessments of Brooklyn made in 1675 and 1676, she is listed, with her own household, next to her son-in-law Jan Aersen.<sup>[19]</sup>

Since the only child Swaentje mentions in her will is the daughter Adriaentje, and since she took care to ensure that her step-daughter Elisabeth de Potter should "acquit and stand off for her and her heirs all . . . right concerning the estate," as a "Release" attached to her will reads,<sup>[20]</sup> it is unlikely she had any other children alive at the time. Swaentje had the following known issue, all baptisms being at Batavia:

(by Cornelis Adriaens, surname apparently Bleijck)

- i. Adriaen, bapt. (as "Ari[ ]") 21 June 1626.
- ii. Gommarus, bapt. 7 Nov. 1627, apparently a namesake of the Gommarus van der Staen<sup>[21]</sup> who served as one of his baptismal sponsors.
- iii. Pietertge, bapt. 24 Aug. 1631.
- iv. Cornelis, bapt. 17 Mar. 1633.
- v. Grietje, bapt. 22 Apr. 1635.
- vi. Adriaentje, b. probably in 1637, for whom no baptismal record has been found, but whose parentage is amply proven by New Netherland sources, including her mother's will. She m. (1) (int.) 18 Nov. 1655 in the New York Dutch Church,<sup>[22]</sup> Joannes Nevius,<sup>[23]</sup> of New Amsterdam; and (2) apparently in 1674, probably as his second wife, Jan Aersen,<sup>[24]</sup> of Brooklyn Ferry, and had issue by both marriages.

(by Cornelis de Potter)

- vii. Sara, bapt. 3 Mar. 1644.
- viii. David, bapt. 1 Oct. 1648, for further details of whom see below, under the account of his father.

<sup>19</sup> Edmund B. O'Callaghan, *The Documentary History of the State of New York*, 4 vols. (Albany, 1849-51), 4:148, 2:477. See generally the Nevius genealogy, 75-79, 663, 669-74.

<sup>20</sup> Nevius genealogy, 671; see also REC. 48:293, 297-98, 47:165, reprinted in *Long Island Source Records*, ed. Henry B. Hoff (Baltimore, 1987), 83, 87-88, 100. The English is a contemporary translation, but we have modernized the spelling.

<sup>21</sup> "Gommars van Staen," as he signs his name in the church-wardens' minute-book in 1621, served as *Schutterkapitein* (captain of the gunners) during the siege of Batavia by the natives in 1628, and died shortly thereafter; see F. De Haan, *Oud Batavia*, 2nd ed., 2 vols. (Bandoeng, 1935), 2:plate J4 and the editor's remarks thereto.

<sup>22</sup> *Marriages from 1639 to 1801 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New Amsterdam - New York City*, 18.

<sup>23</sup> Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 215; Nevius genealogy, *passim*. The question of his ancestry is taken up in William J. Hoffman, "An Armory of American Families of Dutch Descent: Nevius (Neef, Neafie)," REC. 64:250-52, and John J. De Mott, "Joannes and Matthias Nevius: Students," *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, 2(1913):29-35.

<sup>24</sup> Nevius genealogy, 136-41, 663-65; Charles Carroll Gardner, "A Genealogical Dictionary of New Jersey: Aersen," *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* 12(1937):25-30, reprinted in *Genealogies of New Jersey Families from the Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, ed. Joseph R. Klett, 2 vols. (Baltimore, 1996), 2:87-92. Both these authors correct the seriously confused account of this family in Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 205-06, where Jan Aersen and his descendants are intermingled with the Middagh family.

CORNELIS DE POTTER, of unknown parentage, variously said in contemporary documents to have been from 's-Gravenhage (The Hague) or Rotterdam,<sup>[25]</sup> both places being in South Holland, died between 4 October 1659 and October 1660, presumably on Long Island.<sup>[26]</sup> He was in the service of the East India Company at Batavia in 1632,<sup>[27]</sup> and was living there until at least 1648 when his youngest child was baptized. He was in Amsterdam by 18 March 1651 when he was cited in three notarial records as leaving for New Netherland; in two of them Abraham (de) Wijs was mentioned as his brother-in-law.<sup>[28]</sup> He was cited in another notarial record in Amsterdam dated 22 March 1651.<sup>[29]</sup> He was in New Netherland by 9 July 1651.<sup>[30]</sup> On 23 September 1651, in company with Peter Stuyvesant and Lucas Rodenburgh, he bought an interest in the Harlem farm known as "Zegendael" belonging to Jochem Pieterszen Kuyter.<sup>[31]</sup>

Abraham (de) Wijs was married to Sara de Potter,<sup>[32]</sup> probably the "Juffr. Sara Wys" who was a sponsor in 1648 for Cornelis de Potter's youngest child. A probable brother was David de Potter, who served as a sponsor for the same child; and several years later we find a David de Potter (too old to have been Cornelis' son) serving as a baptismal sponsor in the New York Dutch Church in 1652 and 1653.<sup>[33]</sup> But as any of these sponsorships could have been performed by proxy, they are no certain indication of the persons' whereabouts. Honeyman thought David de Potter may have been identical with David Jaspjyn, who "met zyn huis vr[ou]" and with Cornelis and his wife served as a baptismal sponsor for a grandson of Swaentje Jans in 1654.<sup>[34]</sup> Considering the circumstances, and

<sup>25</sup> As we have seen, the 1635 baptismal record of his son Abraham says 's-Gravenhage; Hoffman (REC. 72:225) says he is "stated to be from The Hague in a record of 1636 and from Rotterdam in one dated 1643."

<sup>26</sup> Nevius genealogy, 80.

<sup>27</sup> Hoffman, REC. 72:225.

<sup>28</sup> Not. Arch. 2027/470 and /474, Nots. S. van Nieuwland [mentioning brother-in-law] and Not. Arch. 1837/53, Nots. Nic. Kruys, in *Noord Amerika Chronologie* [abstracts of notarial records at the Amsterdam Municipal Archives pertaining to North America 1598-1750, microfilm copy at NYG&BS]. In a later notarial record, dated 21 May 1654, Isaac Bedloo, the younger, living in New Netherland, gives power of attorney to his uncle, Abraham de Wijs, merchant in Amsterdam, for himself and his wife, Elisabeth de Potter (Not. Arch. 2027/956, Nots. S. van Nieuwland, in *Noord Amerika Chronologie*).

<sup>29</sup> Not. Arch. 2035/102, Nots. S. van Nieuwland, in *Noord Amerika Chronologie*.

<sup>30</sup> E.B. O'Callaghan and Berthold Fernow, eds., *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, 15 vols. (Albany, 1853-1887) [hereafter CDNY], 1:597-600.

<sup>31</sup> *New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch*, vols. 1-4, ed. Kenneth Scott and Kenn Stryker-Rodda (Baltimore, 1974), 3:309-12; James Riker, *Revised History of Harlem* (New York, 1904), pp. 157-58, 167-68; I.N. Phelps Stokes, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island*, 6 vols. (New York, 1915-28), 4:124. Other land transactions are printed in vol. 3 of *New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch* and in Stokes 2:307, 402.

<sup>32</sup> Information from Elva Kathleen Lyon, based on full copies of the notarial records of 18 Mar. 1651 and 21 May 1654, and a notarial record of 1 Aug. 1665 which calls Sara de Potter the widow of Abraham Wijs (Not. Arch. 2620/789-91, Nots. Nicolas Listingh).

<sup>33</sup> He served with "Juffr[ou] Genis" (otherwise unidentified) for a child of François Fjyn (*Baptisms from 1639 to 1730 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New York*, 32) in 1652, and with "zjyne huis vr[ou]" (unnamed) for a child of Theunis Janszen in 1653 (*ibid.*, 34). Neither of these records seems to illuminate his identity. We have not been able to confirm Bergen's statement (*Early Settlers of Kings County*, 95) that a David de Potter served as a magistrate in Flatlands in 1654.

<sup>34</sup> Nevius genealogy, 80, 142; *Baptisms from 1639 to 1730 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New York*, 38.

the fact that the name David was fairly uncommon, this idea is not unreasonable, but as we have not succeeded in locating any other reference to this Jaspÿn, it must remain pure speculation.

Cornelis de Potter married (1) before 1635, perhaps in Europe, Elisabeth Ser Jacobs, and (2) 22 January 1643 (date of intention) at Batavia, Swaentje Jans (see above), successively the widow of Cornelis Adriaens, of Tobias Clouck, and of Joris Felten, and was survived by her. The reference in a 1656 inventory of slaves to "Catelina and two children, in the possession of Potter's son or daughter" suggests that Cornelis (assuming he is the one referred to) had at the time at least one, and probably precisely one, child of each sex.<sup>[35]</sup> But as his widow names only his daughter Elisabeth in her will, the son must have died in the interval.

Cornelis de Potter had the following known issue, all baptisms being at Batavia:

(by Elisabeth Ser Jacobs)

- i. Abraham, bapt. 22 Feb. 1635.
- ii. Elisabeth, bapt. 28 Apr. 1636, according to Hoffman (this year is now missing from the register, or at least from the FHL microfilm thereof). She m. (1) (int.) 16 May 1653 in the New York Dutch Church,<sup>[36]</sup> Capt. Isaac Bedloo,<sup>[37]</sup> of New Amsterdam, alderman, Comptroller of Customs, and (2) 22 Apr. 1680 in the New York Dutch Church,<sup>[38]</sup> as his first wife, Pieter de Lanoy, Mayor of New York (1689-90) and member of the New York Assembly (1693-95). Pieter de Lanoy married secondly Mary Edsall, a step-daughter of Swaentje Jans' step-daughter Jannetje (Strycker) (Berrien) Edsall, and Mary was presumably the mother of all of his children.<sup>[39]</sup> By her first husband Elisabeth left issue. They have many notable descendants, including first lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

<sup>35</sup> CDNY 2:31. On 4 Oct. 1659 "Franciscus Neger en Catharina Negrinne, slaven van Corñ. de Potter" were betrothed in the New York Dutch Church (*Marriages from 1639 to 1801 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New Amsterdam - New York City*, 24), and de Potter's widow Swaentje mentions her "Neger and Neger woman by name, Francis and Katharina, married together" (Nevius genealogy, 670).

<sup>36</sup> *Marriages from 1639 to 1801 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New Amsterdam - New York City*, 18.

<sup>37</sup> In addition to the article by Hoffman previously cited (note 5), see Edwin R. Purple, "Livingston-Howarden-Bedlo [etc.]" REC. 9:148-49, and the Nevius genealogy, 81-84, 665-69, 676. Isaac's possession of the office of Comptroller is mentioned in Stokes, *Iconography*, 4:268. The presence (possibly by proxy) of "Bedloos suster tot Middelburg" at the baptism of one of his children in 1669 (*Baptisms from 1639 to 1730 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New York*, 96) led Hoffman to attempt to connect Isaac with the Bedloos of that place, which lies in Zeeland. Hoffman's Erasmus Bedloo (ca. 1626-1693) is probably the one of this name who had a daughter Anne baptized 18 May 1653 in the English Presbyterian Church, Amsterdam (Amsterdam DTB 137:91; FHL 113414). Highly fanciful accounts of this family have been given in such popular publications as the *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* 7:86; *America's Successful Men of Affairs* (New York, 1895), 1:70; and Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer, *The Goede Vrouw of Mana-ha-ta* (New York, 1898), 226-27.

<sup>38</sup> *Marriages from 1639 to 1801 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New Amsterdam - New York City*, 47.

<sup>39</sup> Nevius genealogy, 83-84, 668-69; *The Genealogist*, 2(1981):207. Bergen (*Early Settlers of Kings County*, 95) garbles this information, stating that Swaentje Jans herself m. 4 Apr. 1669 Pieter Delancy (*sic*). Pieter de Lanoy had no children at the making of his will on 2 Sept. 1696 (N.Y. Co. Wills 5:166; *Abstracts of Wills* . . . , 17 vols., Collections of The New-York Historical Society 1892-1908, 1:268-69), so his posthumous daughter Maria, bapt. 21 Feb. 1697 (*Baptisms from 1639 to 1730 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New York*, 242) must have been his only child, as suggested many years ago by a writer in the RECORD, 13:195.

(by Swaentje Jans)

- iii. Sara, bapt. 3 Mar. 1644.
- iv. David, bapt. 1 Oct. 1648, apparently a namesake of the older David de Potter who served as one of his baptismal sponsors. He was probably the one of this name in the list of “catechumens” (i.e. students for first communion) in the Brooklyn Dutch Church in 1662, as Bergen and Honeyman both suggested.<sup>[40]</sup> But he had almost certainly died unmarried or at least without issue by 1676, as he is not mentioned in his mother’s will made that year. His name, as Honeyman notes, seems to be commemorated in that of his half-sister Adriaentje Bleyck’s son David Aersen.<sup>[41]</sup>

<sup>40</sup> Van der Linde, *Old First Dutch Reformed Church of Brooklyn*, 57; Nevius genealogy, 80.

<sup>41</sup> Nevius genealogy, 140.