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Christiana, Wife of Jacob Isaacs Van Bebber

by

Elizabeth A. Johnson and Cor Snabel

Jacob Isaacs Van Bebber, the father of the American Van Bebbers, was born about 1640 in Krefeld, Muers, a region close to the border between the Netherlands and Germany. Jacob Isaacs Van Bebber was a son of Isaac Van Bebber and Hester Op den Graff. Jacob and his wife emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1687, living first at a settlement called Germantown, near Philadelphia. After living there for several years, they moved to the Bohemia Manor area of Cecil County, Maryland, where some of their children also settled. Jacob Van Bebber and his wife probably joined the Anglican church about 1700. Jacob died in 1705, and his wife died in 1711. Both were buried under the floor of St. Stephen's Church, at Earlville in North Sassafras Hundred, Cecil County, Maryland.

In America, Jacob's wife had become known as "Christiana." The inscription over her grave reads:

"Christiana Van Bebber Wife of Jacob Van Bebber Senr. of Bohemia River was buried on fourth Day of Sept. A. D. MDCCXI." But who was "Christiana"? Her surname and the home of her family have been almost unknown until recently. But thanks to some excellent archives which had been kept for hundreds of years in the Netherlands, her name was never lost... only misplaced for a while. Now, after nearly three hundred years, she has been identified. Here is what has recently been discovered of "Christiana" and her family.

Some background: Around 1660, Jacob Isaacs Van Bebber was married to a woman named Styntje Van Dulcken. Their marriage likely took place in or near Krefeld, an area in which members of both his and her families had lived. But these families were Mennonites, and Krefeld had become an uncomfortable place for them to live. Meanwhile, William Penn began offering opportunities for people to emigrate to his new colony, a place in which persons of dissenting religions could own land and live in peace. Jacob Van Bebber and his wife, along with their sons Isaac and Matthias, were among those who took up this opportunity. Later, another son, Hendrick Van Bebber, and some of his own children, left Holland and joined them.

There is a great deal of evidence showing that business relationships had existed for some time between residents of Krefeld and residents in Utrecht, a city in the Netherlands. It may be that Jacob and Styntje brought or sent at least part of their family to Utrecht sometime before 1685. In that year, their son Hendrick posted banns (marriage intentions) in that city, shortly before his marriage. But whether or not Jacob and his wife had lived in Utrecht before coming to the colonies, record of their names still exists there in church records and in handwritten notarial documents still on file in Utrecht. Two notarial documents have been found which give Styntje Van Dulcken's name along with her husband's, with names of some

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coming to the colonies, record of their names still exists there in church records and in handwritten notarial documents still on file in Utrecht. Two notarial documents have been found which give Styntje Van Dulcken's name along with her husband's, with names of some of their children, and with names of Styntjes siblings and other close relatives. Thanks to the precise attention to detail by the creators of these documents, we can see how Christina's family is clearly described, and we can learn about various aspects of their lives.

The first document that mentions the name of Jacob Van Bebber's wife is a testament made in 1701 by a man by the name of Mathijs Van Dulcken. This man was the brother-in-law of Jacob Van Bebber –the brother of Jacob's wife. Probably about sixty years old when he wrote his will, Mathijs Van Dulcken had been married twice, but both marriages appear to have been childless. Therefore, in his will, Mathijs leaves sums of money and property to his surviving siblings, and to several of their children, his nieces and nephews. Styntje Van Dulcken's name and status as Mathijs Van Dulcken's sister, along with the name of her husband, and along with the names of two of their children and one grandchild, appears three times in his will.

Who were the Van Dulckens? The Van Dulcken family might possibly have originated near the town of Dulcken, which is only a few miles from Krefeld, County of Meurs. Likewise, an earlier generation of the Van Bebbers may have originated in the village of Bebber, in the adjacent Dutchy of Kleve. Krefeld and Kleve, both known to have been home to communities of Mennonites, are 32 miles apart, and close to the modern-day border between Germany and the Netherlands.

Mathijs Van Dulcken was probably born around the 1640's. He was a coopman, or merchant, who lived near the Tollesteeppoord of Utrecht. He was of the Mennonite faith. He must have been a successful businessman, for in his will, he left sums to his sister and brothers and to several other relatives. He left five hundred guilders each to the Mennonite Churches of Utrecht and of Krefeld, for the use of the poor.

Persons named in Mathijs Van Dulcken's will were:

A niece, Tryntje Van Dulcken, the unmarried daughter of his brother Arent Van Dulcken, both living in Arent's house in Crefeld (Krefeld).

The children of Hester Van Dulcken and her husband, Cornelis Van Heuven, of Utrecht. Hester is identified as the daughter of Matthijs' brother, Pieter Van Dulcken (deceased).

A nephew, Abraham Van Dulcken, the son of his brother, Pieter Van Dulcken.

A nephew, Hendrick Pietersson Van Dulcken, another son of his brother, Pieter Van Dulcken.

Nephews Mathijs and Hendrick Van Dulcken, sons of his brother, Hendrick.

A nephew, Mathijs Van Bebber, son of his sister Styntje, and her husband, Jacob Van Bebber, who live in "Pensilvanien."

A grand-nephew, Mathijs Van Bebber, son of another nephew, Hendrik Jacobssen Van Bebber, who is the son of his sister, Styntje and her husband, Jacob Van Bebber.

Andrew Oortman, son of Jan Oortman (both of Utrecht), his brother-in-law and his son.

Hendrick Van Dulcken, his brother, who lives in Krefeld.

His wife, Anna Ortman.

In his will, Mathijs Van Dulcken names the three heirs who will share his estate equally: His sister, Styntje Van Dulcken, the wife of Jacob Van Bebber, who live in Pennsylvania, inherits one-third; his brothers Arent and Hendrick Van Dulcken, both of Krefeld, each inherit one of the other two thirds.

Here is an image of part of Mathijs Van Dulcken's will, along with transcriptions and English translations of these passages:

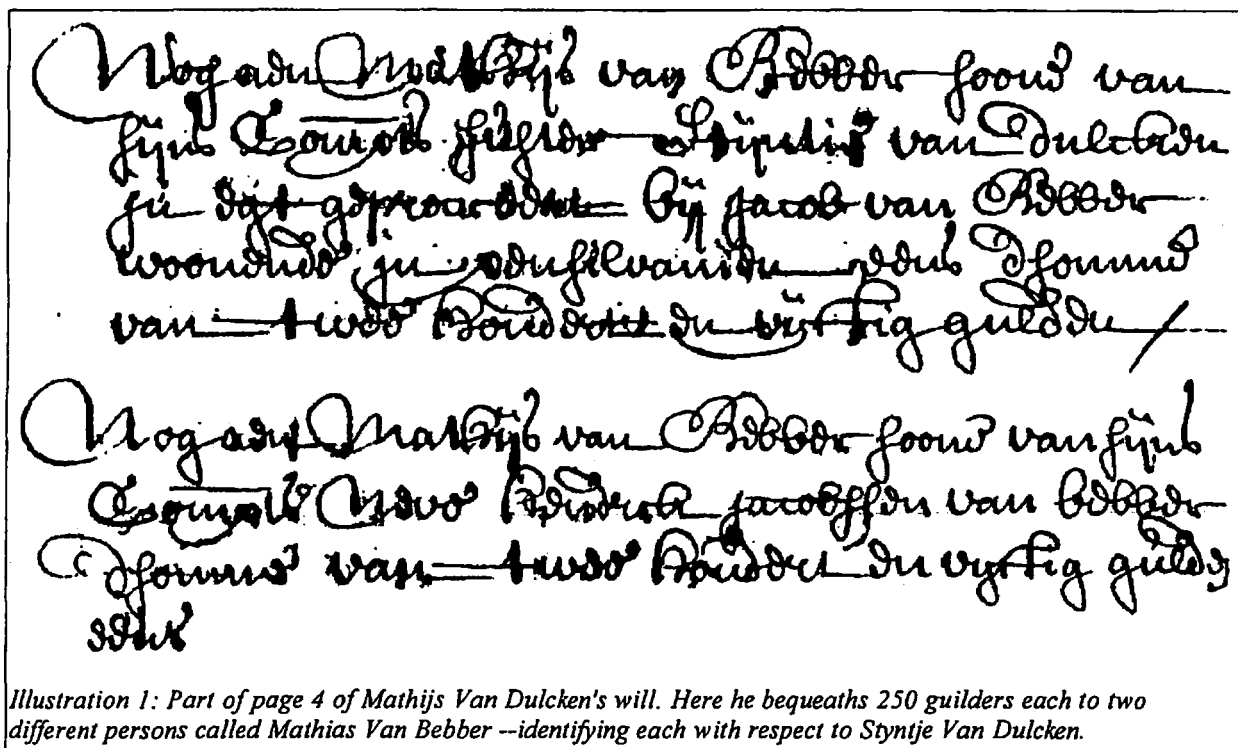


Illustration 1: Part of page 4 of Mathijs Van Dulcken's will. Here he bequeaths 250 guilders each to two different persons called Mathias Van Bebber --identifying each with respect to Styntje Van Dulcken.

Text and translation of the above:

"Nog aen Mathijs Van Bebber, soon Van syne Comp't suster Stijntie Van Dulcken, in egt geprocreert by Jacob Van Bebber, woonende in Pensilvanien, eens d'somme Van twee hondert en vyftig gulden." [Page 4]

"To Mathijs Van Bebber, son of the Testator's sister, Styntie Van Dulcken, procreated in marriage by Jacob Van Bebber, living in Pennsylvania, one sum of two hundred and fifty guilders."

"Nog aen Mathijs Van Bebber, soon Van syne Comp't neve Hendrik jacobssen Van Bebber, d'somme Van twee hondert en vijftig gulden, eens."

"To Mathijs Van Bebber, son of the Testator's nephew, Hendrick jacobssen Van Bebber, the sum of two hundred and fifty guilders, once."

An additional passage confirming the identity of Jacob (Isaacs) Van Bebber's wife appears on pages 6-7 of the same testament:

"Hij Comp't vorder op d' lagt Vande voorschre[] gemaekt er legaten ende prelegaten tot syne eenige ende universele erfenamen syne Comp~ suster Styntje Van Dulcken huisvrouw Van Jacob Van Bebber wonende in Pensilvania voor een derde part." [Pages 6-7]

"He the Testator, to the last above written, further makes, bequeaths and pre-bequeaths to the following, his sole and universal heirs: the Testator's sister, Styntje Van Dulcken, wife of Jacob Van Bebber, living in Pennsylvania, a third part."

Further proof of the existence and name of Styntje Van Dulcken has been found in a second document, a record of a meeting which took place on June 1, 1724 before an attorney in Utrecht. Mathijs Van Dulcken had died about 1716; this document contains administrative details with respect to the settlement of debits to his estate. Although this document is dated thirteen years after the death of Styntje Van Dulcken and eight years after the death of her brother Mathijs, it refers to all of his heirs, which include Styntje and her sons. The list of heirs, by name and relationship, is found on the first page. That page reads (in translation):

Present on the first of June this year, seventeen hundred twenty four [1724], appeared before me, Hendrik Van Hees, Notary etc. And testified the below named, here on request of ...Margareta Oortman, sole instituted heir of Anneke Oortman, in her life [the] widow, estate holder, and survivor of Sr. Matthijs Van Dulken who was a merchant of ironwork here, --of the first [party], and the Misters Abraham Van Dulken and Dionys Oortman, merchants here, as executors of the testament of the before named Matthijs Van Dulken; also the same Abraham Van Dulken, both for himself and as special representative of Mattheis, Christiaen, and Hendrik Van Dulken, Johan Van Emmerart, Johan Kroets, and Hendrik and Tryntje Arets Van Dulken, and empowered by proxy of September 1723 before Adolph Becker, Notary and attorney, filed at Krefeld. Item Hester Van Dulken, widow of Cornelis Van Heuven, and Hubertus Van Bebber --for and in name of his father, Hendrik Van Bebber and his own brothers Isaac and Matthijs Van Bebber, children of Stijntje Van Dulcken, for whom he will in this firmly represent and ratify, and also the same invested heirs of the first mentioned, called Matthijs Van Dulcken.

While the name of Styntje Van Dulcken's husband (Jacob Isaacs Van Bebber) is not mentioned here, their relationship is known from the 1701 testament. But three of Styntje Van Dulcken's sons are named here as her children. Hendrik Van Bebber, the youngest of the three Van Bebber brothers mentioned here, was referenced ahead of his elder brothers, Isaac and Matthijs (Mathias) because he had been better known in Utrecht. While Isaac and Mathias Van Bebber had emigrated to Germantown before 1690, Hendrik had stayed behind, choosing to raise his family in Utrecht. He had been a merchant and owner of a shop and several buildings in Utrecht, finally emigrating to Middletown, Delaware, in 1720. Hubertus Van Bebber, a resident of Utrecht, representing the Van Bebber family here, was a son of Hendrick Van Bebber. Margareta Oortman, the first party mentioned in the 1724 document, was the sister (and heir) of Anneke Oortman, who was the second wife of Mathijs Van Dulcken, Styntje's brother. They married in 1694.

From these two documents, written about three hundred years ago, we have learned a great deal. We now know that Jacob Isaacs Van Bebber's wife was Styntje Van Dulcken, whose brothers lived in Krefeld, and whose nephews lived in Utrecht. From this and from other documents found in Utrecht, part of three generations of the Mathijs Van Dulcken family tree can be constructed, and is shown below. Christina-Styntje and her siblings appear in bold case. The patronym, or father's name, is shown as the middle name of the sons.

Family of Styntje Van Dulcken, wife of Isaac Jacobs Van Bebber (partial family tree):

Mathijs Van Dulcken. Married 1. Janneken Bongaerts; 2. Annika Oortman

Styntje Van Dulcken. Wife of Jacob Isaacs Van Bebber

Isaac (Jacobs) Van Bebber

Mathijs (Jacobs) Van Bebber

Hendrick (Jacobs) Van Bebber

Mathijs (Hendricks) Van Bebber

Hubertus (Hendricks) Van Bebber

Arent Van Dulcken [wife unknown; died before 1724]

Tryntje Arets Van Dulcken

Hendrick Van Dulcken. His wife was Niesje Abinga.

Mathijs (Hendricks) Van Dulcken

Hendrick (Hendricks) Van Dulcken

Peter Van Dulcken, deceased before 1701. His wife was Anna Woestenraedt.

Hester Pieters Van Dulcken. Her husband was Cornelis Van Heuven.

Abraham (Pietersson) Van Dulcken. His wife was Wilhelma Mack.

Anna Van Dulcken

Hendrick (Pietersson) Van Dulcken

Now we have been introduced to Styntje Van Dulcken, who had journeyed with her husband to the new world. She was the mother and grandmother of a family whose descendents have spread far and wide. Some of those descendents are learning her name for the first time now. We like to think Styntje would be pleased.

Sources and Acknowledgements

Oud Notarieel Archief van Utrecht

Doopregisters, Doopsgezinde Kerk, Utrechts Archief

Huwelijken voor het gerecht, Utrechts 1661-1690.

Begraafregisters, Utrechts Archief

Register of Marriages, Births, and Burials Vol. 1 - North Sassafras Parish: St. Stephen Church.

Transcription and translations of documents from the Dutch: Cor Snabel and Elizabeth A. Johnson

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REPLIES TO QUERIES

Readers are urged to send copies of their replies to the Editor so that this regular forum can prove to be helpful to present and future readers. The following contributors have generously shared their knowledge and comments about questions asked in the previous issues.

2006-59 [Who were the ancestors of Sebring Austin Slater gunned down in Colorado in 1908?] On page 17 of the previous issue Robert D. Griffin presented the 1880 federal census enumeration of the Slater family in Brooklyn, New York, that identified Sebring A. Slater's parents as Jacob S. Slater, born in New York, and Helene Q., his wife, born in England. A search of the 1860 federal census turned up J[acob] Sebring Slater living with his mother and siblings in the First Ward of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York, on 23 June 1860:

Caroline F. Slater	57	New York
J. Sebring Slater	18	New York
Anna C.	22	New Jersey
Francis F. (male)	16	New York
Cathrin McLidlen	40	Ireland

On 25 July 1850 the federal census-taker found the Slater family also living in the First Ward of Poughkeepsie.

Caroline Slater	45	New York
Elizabeth	21	New York
Anna	16	New York (sic)
James	16	New York
Jacob S.	8	New York
Francis	6	New York
Harriet	50	England
Ellen Fletcher	26	Ireland

If one assumes that Caroline F. Slater is a widow, her husband must have died between 1844 and 1850.

We are fortunate that Jacob Sebring Slater is found on page 220 of the late Jean D. Worden's transcription of the records of the *First and Second Reformed Dutch Church, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York, 1716-1912* in a list of individuals baptized by Reverend A.M. Mann. Jacob was baptized on 28 September 1841, the son of James E. Slater and Caroline Fowler. The Rev. Alexander M. Mann also kept a list of those who died during his pastorate, 1838-1858. On page 243 of Mrs. Worden's transcription, we learn that Dr. James E. Slater, age 45, died on 10 June 1849.

In 1907 William Henry Van Benschoten published his substantial compiled genealogy, *Concerning the Van Bunschoten or Van Benschoten Family in America* (the full text is available online to subscribers of Ancestry.com). On page 64 he says that "James E. Slater, M.D., [was] born in 1804 and died in 1849. [He and his wife, Caroline [Fowler] lived in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; in early life he practiced medicine; later was an officer of the Mercantile Bank and also Secretary of the Dutchess Co. Mutual Ins. Co."

Caroline Fowler married James E. Slater, M.D., on 11 October 1827. She was born on 11 February 1802, the second child of Caleb Fowler and Catherine Sebring. According to William Henry Van Benschoten, Caroline (Fowler) Sebring died on 14 December 1841, but this date of death is an error because we see on the 1850 census that she had two children after 1841 and that she was enumerated in 1860 as being 57 years old.

On 28 August 1798 Caleb Fowler (1775-1826) married Catherine Sebring (1779-1841). Catherine was the daughter of Isaac Sebring "of Long Island" and Catherine Van Bunschoten. Isaac and Catherine were married at the New Hackensack church on 31 December 1776. Isaac was the son of Cornelius Sebring and Mary Howard. Cornelius was the son of Isaac Sebring and Catherine Lefferts. Isaac was the son of Major Cornelius Sebring who was born in the Netherlands in 1653, married 3 September 1682, Aeltje Fredericks Lubbertsen, and died in 1723.

The Editor

2006-71 [In 1871 Henry Van Wormer (1830-1905) married Emma Southern, born in 1854. Who were their parents?] In the 1860 federal census Emma Southern was enumerated in the household of her parents, dwelling #650 in Lisbon, Juneau County, Wisconsin.

Richard Southern	35	England	Farmer
Elizabeth	30	England	
Mary Ann	13	England	
Samuel	12	Wisconsin	
Maria	10	Wisconsin	
Emma	7	Wisconsin	
John J.	1	Wisconsin	

The 1880 census confirms that Emma's parents were both born in England. Henry Van Wormer and his young family are living in dwelling #281 in Lisbon, Juneau County, Wisconsin:

Henry Vanwormer	48	New York	New York	New York
Emma	26	Wisconsin	England	England
Jessie	8	Wisconsin		
Alice	6	Wisconsin		
Lettie	1	Wisconsin		

In the 1860 and 1870 censuses there is a Henry Van Wormer, born in New York, who is working as a farm laborer in Rock County, Wisconsin. In 1860 he is 29 years old and working for Nelson Ritterbush (age 28, born in New Hampshire). In 1870 this Henry Van Wormer is 37 years old and working for a farmer named Hugh Chapin. In the 1850 federal census Henry was still living in Jefferson County, New York, where he had been born. He was enumerated as an 18-year-old farmer living in the household of 25-year-old Curtis Chelsea.

The Editor

2007-4 [Two early inhabitants of New Netherland, Jacob Reynsen and Jacob Schermerhorn, are said to have been born in Waterland. Where was Waterland?] Waterland is the region north of Amsterdam and south of a west to east line from Alkmaar to Hoorn. In the seventeenth century it had a number of lakes called Schermer, Beemster, Purmer and Wormer. They were all interconnected by rivers, which eventually wound up in the 'Y' and thus the Zuyderzee and open water of the world's oceans. As a result, there were many fishing villages on the various islands along those lakes, and many inhabitants made their money in fishing for herring and in whaling. However, gradually these lakes were pumped dry and became 'polders' and thus farmland, so ending the fishing business there. Many skippers, however, moved to the cities directly along the Zuyderzee coast; these included the city of Amsterdam.

There Jacob Reynsen, a draper from Durgerdam, teamed up in 1644 with Jacob Jansz. (from) Schermerhoorn, age 20, who had been in New Netherland as a mate on the ship *Sevenster*. Durgendam and Schermerhoorn are towns in Waterland. The two young men contracted with Jan/Johannes van Hardenburg/ Hardenberg, a merchant dealing in cloth (duffel, and perhaps other things) and set up shop in New Netherland. Eventually they were convicted for selling weapons etc. to the Indians and banned from New Netherland, but through the intervention of other traders, they were pardoned by Director General Stuyvesant.

The Schermerhoorns left ancestors in North America. Of Jacob Reynsen nothing seems to be known after 1649, let alone if he was married. My New Amsterdam/New York church records are completed through 1710, and I am constantly editing my database. Unfortunately the church records of Fort Orange/ Albany don't start until 1683.

In the old days many Dutch people used their father's name, i.e. a patronymic, which were accepted by many as a family name. Thus Jacob Reynsen; Reynsz; Reyntje was perhaps a patronymic, he being the son of Reyn/Reijndert. I can think of another such person viz. Reijndert/ Reyndert/Reindert/ Reyntje Jansz., a master carpenter from Hoorn. Of him we have no records of a marriage.

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The Dorland Enigma Solved

A Revision of the Dorland Genealogy

Compiled by Barbara Barth

Edited by Judith Sewth Cassidy and Harry Macy, Jr.

468 pages, hardbound, \$36.00 + shipping

Finally, this long-awaited work is available in print.

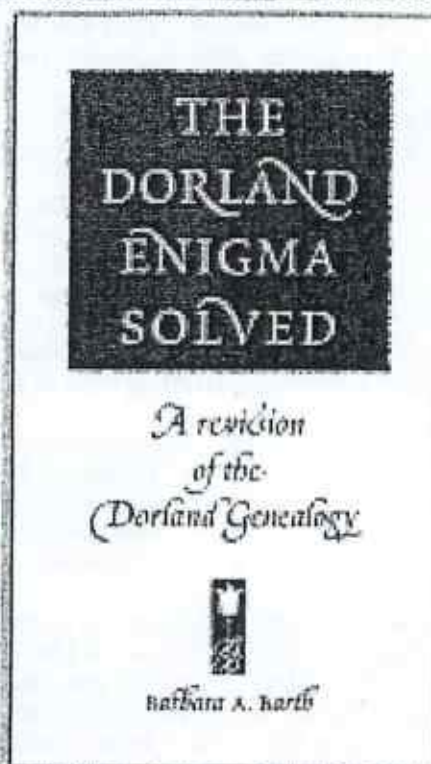
A comprehensive, well-documented genealogy of the descendants of Gerrit, Lambert, and Elias Dorland, early settlers of New Netherland/New York. In addition to the male-line descendants of daughters are traced, in some cases for many generations. These families migrated early in large numbers to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, California and Oregon, as well as Canada. Many errors in earlier accounts of the Dorlands are corrected.

Among the families, but not all families, appearing in the book are:

Ammerman, Armstrong, Banta, Barkels, Beckel, Benzler, Bergen, Bevington, Biedel, Bogart, Peris (Maitross), Fottler, Garmen, Garrow, Gehrde, Gapp, Clowes, Covert, Conck, Corson, Cortelison, Coonckeloven, Coster, Craven, Darland, Davis, DeBraunck, Demson, Dumas, Dorland, Doelands, Durand, Darling, Duryea, Eades, Eldert, Elmans, Elmson, Grant, Gerritsen, Goldenkorn, Gulick, Gurwell, Haight, Hegeman, Hendrickson, Hewlett, Hogland, Johnson, Krosen, Lefferts, Livingston, Lott, Lorce, Lupford, Lyster, Marvase, McKinstry, Merrill, Messier, Miller, Montfort, Moon, Mott, Mirfus, Nevins, Neom, Oakley, Oxfield, Penwell, Peterson, Petterson, Peint, Pinkerton, Polhann, Porckhuize, Pradson, Provelson, Probasen, Purdy, Quack, Rapsalpe, Reaser, Remsen, Reyniers, Reynolds, Rhodes, Riverson, Ryerson, Saker, Schenk, Selbring, Seeler, Selover, Seuberg, Simonson, Skidmore, Smith, Smack, Smedeker, Sothman, Sothorn, Stoochhoff, Storm, Stoyler, Supter, Surlan, Swartwout, TenEyck, Thompson, Townseld, Underhill, VanArsdalen, VanBuren, VanBrunt, VanGeel, VanCleve, Vanderlith, Vanderveer, VanDerwater, VanDort, VanHekingen, VanLee, VanLuster, VanNewstead, VanNieu, VanPel, VanStollen, VanStinken, VanSise, VanVoorhes, VanWickler, VanWyck, Vuurhes, Whalen, White, Wilkerson, Woertman, Wiggins, Wood, Wright, Wyckoff, Young



Barbara Barth was a longtime genealogist who had written many articles for *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*. *The Dorland Enigma Solved* is the fruit of several years of research, and was finished just prior to her death in 2003. Her family and friends were able to complete the editing and production of this work and are thrilled to see this volume in print at last.



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