

PAMPHLET

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# A Van Sweringen- Cresap Register

European Backgrounds - Van Sweringen  
Family from A. D. 1290, and the American  
Record to the Cresap Intermarriages.



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## VAN SWERINGEN-CRESAP REGISTER

### VAN SWERINGEN NAME -- HISTORIC BACKGROUNDS.

The continental home of most of the ancestors of the Anglo-Saxons is the land of the Old Saxons -- the Eastern parts of the Netherlands and the North-western parts of Germany, which is in substance the "Germania" of Tacitus, the Roman conqueror. A democratic people from the beginning, they long withstood the inroads of Roman imperialism in all its forms. Being, in name at least, and to a great extent also in substance, conquered and subdued by Emperor Charlemagne, and incorporated in his empire, the Chiefs of Saxon clans received their ancestral lands back in the form of Feudalities.

To satisfy the subdued Saxons and at the same time extend his empire eastward into the lands of the heathen Wends and Slavs, Charlemagne and his successors started the eastward movement which created Germany in the direction of the Baltic Sea, a movement of which during the Middle Ages the militant Prussian Knights were the champions, and which still directs the German ambitions of our day. The Hansa and the Hanseatic cities and colonies represent economically what the Prussian Knights had represented politically shortly before.

The name 'Sweringen' is not indigenous of north Holland, but of the regions of the eastern parts of the Netherlands and of the north-western parts of Germany, the home of the ancient Saxons. Patronimics ending in 'ingh', 'inge', and 'inck', are decidedly Saxon. They were in full use already in the 5th century when the Saxon settlement of Britain began.

'Sweer-ing' means 'son (or descendant) of Sweer' - or, in full, 'Sweder'. The form, "Swederinck", occurs. 'Sweringen' means "the place of the Swering Clan", and 'van Sweringen' means 'of Sweringen', or 'from Sweringen'.

We find the name 'van Swerin' first mentioned in the city of Wismar, on the Baltic, about the middle of the 13th century. Two merchants: Lambert van Swerin and Sander van Swerin, are named, also Hendrick van Swerin, alias Hendrick Sander's son, van Swerin (1255-1294)'.  
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Wismar, Luebeck, Bremen, and Hamburg were originally the Hansa, to which later numerous other cities were added as one great economic unit over most of the Teutonic lands. Therefore it need not surprise us to find the van Sweringen name in Bremen after we have found it at Wismar.

Hanseische Geschichts Quellen (Hanseatic Historical Sources), PP 4, 7, 8.

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Gerhard (Gerrit) Swerinck and Marckward, his brother, were, on April 2, 1305, among the knights (milites) who made peace with the secular Lord-Bishop of Bremen, Giselbert.<sup>1</sup> In a latin document covering three large pages these knights agreed not to build forts and castles against the city of Bremen, or anywhere in its vicinity. This is only one slight feature in the age-long struggle for supremacy among various feudal forces, secular and ecclesiastic, which characterized the Middle Ages from Charlemagne to the Reformation. In 1369 certain Saxon knights about Bremen planned to build a strong castle so as to check the further encroachments upon their ancestral lands by the Archbishops of Bremen. Other knights, mindful of their promise of 1305, pledged themselves to prevent this plan. Among the latter was one Gerhard Suerinc (Gerrit Swerinck).<sup>2</sup> The cooperation, or rather compromise, of these peaceful knights with the ecclesiastic authorities of Bremen continued from that time on.

'Hendrick' and 'Gerhard (Gerrit)' are old Saxon heraldic names frequently found in the old Sweringh clan. After the peace with the Archbishops of Bremen, Christian given names began to appear. One 'Christianus' Sweringh appears, as Mayor in Bremen, in 1345.<sup>3</sup> The most outstanding member of this family at Bremen was Johanne Sweringe. He appears in the old records for the first time, April 21, 1361, as witness to a land sale. He had a brother named Roeland Sweringe.

Johannes was twice married; to 'Hillegonda', and 'Beata', respectively. The second wife is recorded as the widow of Conrad van Lesen. She is mentioned in 1390 as Johan Swering's widow. March 21, 1373, Johan and Roeland Swering and Elizabeth, Roeland's wife, all citizens of Bremen, sold to Herbord Scene, choirmaster at St. Ansgars, and to Gerhard Scene, Vicar there, a tract of land located between the alms-land of St. Nicolas and the land of Thomas van Gropplingen.<sup>4</sup>

Johannes Swering had a seal, as appears from the following entry of July 19, 1380: 'Wy - - - unde Johan Swering, de hir yegenwardich weren, hebbet ok unse ynsegle hangen to desen breve'. (We - - - and Johan Swering, who were here present, have also hung our seals to this brief'. Johannes is last mentioned alive on January 24, 1385, when he was witness to the Will of Gerhard van Gropplingen.<sup>5</sup> As he owned part of the old Gropplingen estate, it is possible that his first wife, Hillegonde, was a sister of Gerhard van Gropplingen.

On December 29, 1390, Archbishop Albert, of Bremen, with the consent of the Chapter of St. Ansgar, confirmed the founding of an altar of St. Nicholas, in the Church of St. Ansgar, by Beata, 'widow of Johan Sweringh, for the rest of the souls of her deceased husbands, Conrad van Lesen and Johan Sweringh'. This document, covering three full pages, gives details of the circumstance, the land holdings, etc., of the family at that time. On October 8, 1393, Lady Beata added to this altar fund. In the latin document she is called:

'honesta domina Beata, relicta quondam Johannis Sweringh, civis Bremensis, fundatrix et dotatrix perpetui benefici altaris beati Nicolai in ecclesia nostra predicta.' i. e.

'the virtuous lay Beata, derelict of the late Johannes Sweringh, citizen of Bremen, founder and donatrix of the perpetual altar of St. Nicholas in our above said church.'

Otto Sweringh, supposed to have been a brother of Johan and Roeland, is mentioned as a citizen of Bremen, resident in St. Ansgars Parish. Last mentioned in 1387.

From 1393 to 1431 little of importance is found in the old Bremen records concerning the Sweringe family. During that period it seems Bremen's ecclesiastic feudal Lords had greatly increased their land holdings at the expense of the leading former landowning families of ancient Saxon stock. Many of these families once had lands near the city. Then came a period of compromise and members of these families lived peacefully inside the walls as citizens. Again in course of time, deprived of their properties, bought this time with the profits of business and navigation, scions of these families went back to the country to live there as gentry and minor nobility. Then the Municipality of the strong and rich merchant city of Bremen attempted to do, what in previous generations, the ecclesiastic feudal Lords had done -- by degrees acquire the lands of this rural nobility.

On August 16, 1431, several of the representing members of this Gentry, unable to bear this any longer, seem to have combined against the city of Bremen, to protect their holdings. On that date the gentry united and espoused the cause of one of their number who was threatened with eviction, and declared war on Bremen. The formal declaration has been preserved in the 'Bremen Documents' (Vol. 5, No. 464), as follows:

'Wetet, Her Borgermester unde Rad, Ampte und Copman, und gy gansen Meynheyte der Stat to Bremen, dat wy, Luder van Alden, Clawessone, Johan van Sweringen, Johan van Hollege, Tydeke Bockholt, Johan Mawroters, Egbert Rorekersse, Johan Dregena, Hanneken Sokewort, Herrman Wyntmole, Dydrick

<sup>1</sup>Bremisches Urkundenbuch (Bremen Documents) Vol. II, No. 43, p. 49.  
<sup>2</sup>Ibid. No. 98. <sup>3</sup>Ibid. No. 586. <sup>4</sup>Ibid. No. 438. <sup>5</sup>Ibid. No. 47.

4  
Hukevelt, Borgert Ut den Bonen, wilt myd unsen knechten,  
hulperen unde mederyderen, juwe vyent wesen, umme Ernestes  
Kulemans willen, unde wilt des unse ere an juw to guden tiiden  
vorwaret hebben.

'Screven under Clawes van Alden ingesegel, des wy alle  
hiirto bruken.

'Na Godes bort MCCCC darna in den XXXI jar, des Don-  
nerdaghes na Assumptionis Marie Virginis.'

Translation from original Saxon-German:

'Be it known, Lord Mayor and Council, Officials and Merch-  
ants, and to you, the whole Community of the City of Bremen,  
that we, Luder Clawes' son van Alden, Johan van Sweringen,  
Johan van Hollege, Tydeke Bockholt, Johan Mawroters, Egbert  
Rorekersse, Johan Dregena, Henneken Sokewort, Herman Wynt-  
mole (Windmill), Diderick Hukevelt, Borgert Ut den Bonen,  
with our men, helpers and fellow-knights, for Ernest Kuleman's  
sake, want to be your foe, and that for our honour's sake we  
want to warn you in good time.

'Written under the house-seal of Clawes van Alden which  
for this purpose we all use.

'After God's birth 1400 and thereafter 31, on Thursday after  
the Assumption of the Virgin.' [August 16, 1431.]

It is in this document of 1431 that for the first time a scion  
of the old Sweringe family is found recorded under the full name  
of van Sweringen. Sweringe was the old Clan-name, van Swer-  
ingen the title or feudal family name, derived from Sweringe,  
the Manor of the Sweringes.

In less than a century afterward the Reformation began,  
which with its accompanying social and economic revolution,  
destroyed feudalism and started the founding of modern states  
along national lines. Especially in Hanseatic regions this social-  
economic revolution was destined to far-reaching consequences.

Again, in the ancient land of the Saxons, subdued since  
A. D. 785, by Roman Imperialism, the age-long struggle to rid  
the land of tyranny gained great success through the Reform-  
ation. The lands south of Hamburg and Bremen, especially  
Westphalia, were first the scene of the short-lived dream-king-  
dom of Zion, founded by Anabaptists at Munster, and later of  
the many so-called religious wars, during the 16th, 17th - and  
part of the 18th - centuries.

It was out of these struggles that the Dutch Republic was  
born. First a mere seven of the old seventeen United Burgundian  
Netherlands, which had grown out of variously titled feudal  
principalities, the Dutch Republic eventually freed itself from  
the Burgundian Lords who had become kings of Spain, and even  
captured part of the trade, the riches, and the vast Spanish  
Colonial Empire.

This war of Independence, begun in 1568, had its first  
great and lasting success in the founding of the Dutch Republic  
in 1584. The truce with Spain in 1609 confirmed the hard-earned  
freedom. The war, reassumed after a twelve year truce (1609-  
1621), gained for the new Republic a Colonial Empire overseas.  
In East and West Dutch Colonies were founded.

Through the Dutch Colonial armies, the Fleet, and the  
Merchant Companies, thousands of Dutch found their way to  
distant lands, including America. They were a freedom-loving,  
aggressive people. In 17th century Dutch life the Huguenots  
and the North-western Germans played important roles. The  
latter were of Saxon stock and in language and culture closer to  
the Dutch than to the High Germans. These two groups were  
in large measure responsible for Dutch colonial successes.

In these circles we may expect to find the immediate an-  
cestry of Gerrit van Sweringen, the New Netherlander (1636-  
1698), progenitor of the family of this name in North America.  
An initial, and as yet only superficial search in European sources  
has furnished us a few points which may prove stepping-stones  
toward a complete bridging over of the space between Gerrit  
and his medieval, undoubtedly Hanseatic, ancestors.

One Johannes Sweringe (born about 1560), resident of  
Westphalia, appears in a document of September 12, 1607, issued  
by the Lord-Bishop of Munster in Westphalia against Protest-  
ants of his secular domain, whom he suspected and promptly  
accused of Anabaptist revolutionary tendencies, such as had  
been practiced at Munster in 1534. Accusations of this kind,  
and subsequent persecutions, were not uncommon in this Bishop-  
ric in the first quarter of the 17th century. It caused many  
protestant families to seek shelter in the Netherlands and in  
other lands.

When the peace of Westphalia, concluded at Munster in  
1648, ended the Dutch-Spanish and the thirty years war in Ger-  
many, many discharged soldiers sought employment in over-seas  
colonies of the Dutch East and West India Companies. The  
Dutch Colonies in America drew many to these shores.

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## The van Sweringens in America.

Gerrit van Sweringen, ancestor of the Van Sweringen (Swearingen or Swearing) family in America, was born in the United Netherlands in the year 1636. In a declaration made by himself in 1684 he gives his age as '48 years or thereabouts.' A Van Sweringen Genealogy, published by H. H. Swearingen, states that he was born in Beemsterdam, in Holland. The Beemster is a 'polder', or newly reclaimed land, just to the north of Amsterdam. Prior to the 17th century this was one of the many lakes caused by inroads of the sea.

When quite a young man Gerrit was given responsibilities in the Maritime Service of the Dutch West India Company, and in 1656, when that Company fitted out the ship 'de Prince Maurits' with emigrants and supplies for the Dutch Colony on the Delaware River in America, he was made its Supercargo (Officer in charge). This vessel sailed from the port of Amsterdam on the 21st of December, 1656, with 180 persons aboard. It was to have touched at New Amsterdam (now New York City), but on the night of the 8th of March, 1657, stranded off Fire Island, near the southern coast of Long Island. The next day, in freezing weather, the passengers and crew got to the shore in small boats. It is said they were several days without fire. On the third day some friendly Indians happened along, one of whom was employed as a messenger to carry word of their plight to Peter Stuyvesant, then Governor of New Amsterdam. A Sloop was sent to carry them to that place, where they remained for several weeks.

Part of the cargo on the Prince Maurice was saved before the ship went to pieces. Another ship was chartered at New Amsterdam, and on April 16 Gerrit and his company again set sail for the settlement on the Delaware, which they reached on April 25. Fort Casimir on the Delaware was established by the Dutch in 1651. It was surprised and captured by the Swedes in 1654, but was regained by the Dutch the following year, and its name changed to New Amstel (now New Castle, Del.). The Dutch held it till 1664, when all New Netherlands passed into British control.

Soon after his arrival in America Gerrit asked to be released from the W. I. Company's service, as he intended to remain here permanently. He continued to live in New Amstel for a number of years as a prominent citizen and Official.

<sup>10</sup>Callahan: 'Documents Relating to the History of New York'.

## VAN SWERINGEN-CRESAP REGISTER

(Continued from January Bulletin)

From one of his letters from the colony to his superior in Holland we may glean some information as to the character of Gerrit and conditions in the South River Colony in those early times:

Noble, Worshipful, Wise, Right Prudent Sir!

With due respect and reverence have I heretly taken the liberty to greet you, through bounden duty of gratitude to devote to you all the days of my life. I hope you will not consider the insignificance of my person, but excuse the previous and present boldness of so freely writing to your Honor.

Such being the case, I cannot neglect thereby to communicate my promotion; about a year and a half after my departure from Patria, with your Honor's favorable recommendation, I have been appointed Scout [Sheriff] here, subject to the approbation of the Honorable the Principals; previously I have taken care of the store as clerk, and, after J. Rinevelt's death, as commissary, from which I have now requested to be discharged, as I have, though unworthy, been made Second Councillor. . . .

I have received here some goods from my brother, all which I have laid out in house, horses and mules. . . . I am also married.

Herewith I commend your Honor to the mercy and protection of the Most High God, and remain your obedient, humble servant,  
G. v. SWERINGEN.

New Amstel, 8th of December, 1659.

Gerrit van Sweringen was married at New Amstel to Barbarah de Barrette, about 1659. This lady, of French descent, was born at Valenciennes, formerly a city in the Walloon section of the old Seventeen United Netherlands, and later of the subdued Spanish Netherlands, still later of France. She was therefore a Huguenot. Valenciennes, following the one-time strong Liberty Party, all Calvinists there, was the first city in the Netherlands to rebel against Spanish tyranny in 1567. After the cruel punishment of this rebellion the remaining Valenciennes Calvinists, mostly weavers of special fabrics, settled, for the greater part, in such cities as Southampton, Canterbury, and London. The records of these Netherland Calvinist settlements have been published by the Huguenot Society of London.

In the latter part of 1660 Gerrit and his wife returned to Holland, where they remained about a year in the interests of the Colony. Returning to the Colony he resumed his duties as citizen and official. On March 1, 1660, William Beekman, Vice-Director, or Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony, with five other officials, among whom was Garret van Sweringrn, formed a commission to punish the murderer of an Indian slain there.

Some years later Gerrit wrote an account of the Dutch Settlements on the Delaware River, which account was probably for the Maryland Council to be used as evidence in the boundary dispute between Lord Baltimore and William Penn. The document was executed May 12, 1684, 'at a council at Matapany Sewall, in the Province of Maryland,' and the Jurat described Gerret as being 'of the City of St. Maries, gent, aged eight and forty years or thereabouts,. Quoting from this document:

The Company [West India] being soe indebted to the City of Amsterdam [Holland] as to the setting out of a man of warr in reducing the South River [Delaware] into their possession againe they were resolved to make sale of their said title unto the said City. . . .

In fine, the City of Amsterdam were made Lords and Patrons of Colony. . . . A ship called the Prince Maurice was provided to goe to the said Colony, a Governor and Council appointed, and a company of soldiers consisting of about sixty men put aboard, and I myselve was made supracargoe over the said ship and goods. . . . The passengers coming into Dalawar in a ship called the Beaver, hired at New York after the ship Prince Maurice was lost. This was the 25th day of April, 1657, when we took possession of the fort now called New Castle, and the soldiers of the West India Company quitted the same.

After New Amsterdam was surrendered to the British in 1664, Sir Robert Carr was sent to demand the surrender of New Amstel. Of this Gerret wrote:

The Fort and Country was brought under submission by Sir Robert Carr as deputed with two shippes to that intent. Sir Robert Carr did protest often to me that he did not come as an enemy, but as a friend demanding onely in friendship what was ye Kirgs right in that Country. There was taken from the City and inhabitants thereabouts one hundred sheep, and thirty or forty horses, fifty or sixty cows and oxen, the number of sixty or seventy negroes. . . . and the estate of the Governor and myself, except some house stufte, and a negro I gott away, and some other movables Sir Robert Carr did permit me to sell.

It is said of him that after the surrender of the Colony to the British he publicly broke his sword across his knee, and throwing it to right and left, renounced all allegiance to the Dutch authorities.

Shortly after the surrender Gerret moved to Maryland. In April, 1669, he, his wife, and two children, on their petition to Lord Baltimore, were naturalized by act of the General Assembly held at St. Marys in that province. The importance of this move will be recognized when it is stated that ownership of land was restricted to British subjects.

Gerret located at St. Mary's, where he purchased land and became interested in business. From the Chronicles of Colonial Maryland is gleaned the following:

Among the Tavern Keepers at St. Mary's may be mentioned Garret van Sweringen. Ordinaries were regularly licensed and were subject to stringent laws, both as to accomodations and rates. At St. Mary's each Innkeeper was required to have at least twelve feather beds, [no wonder Garret was interested in a 'duck pond', as one of the old records states.] and to provide stable room for at least twelve horses, and was limited to the following charges: Lodging in bed with sheets 12 pence; diet 1 shilling per meal; liquors 10 shilling per gallon.

In the proclamation of the charter of the city of St. Marys, issued by Lord Baltimore in 1668, Gerret was appointed an alderman of the city. In 1674 he built the city's stocks and whipping post. He was appointed sheriff in 1686 and again in 1687. In 1694 there was a proposal to move the Capital from St. Mary's to Annapolis; this was strongly protested by the citizens of St. Mary's. Gerret and his son, Zacharias, signed a petition, addressed to Governor Francis Nicholson, against the proposed removal, but without avail. Zacharias signed his name 'Swearingin' -- dropping the 'van' and adding the 'a'.

Gerret's first wife died about 1670, and he married Mary Smith, of St. Mary's, the ante-nuptial marriage settlement being executed October 5, 1676. He died in 1698 and his widow some years later, she 'in the faith of the English Church'.

#### SECOND GENERATION

We list here only the van Sweringen lineage leading to the Cresap intermarriage.

#### Children of Gerret and Barbara:

1. Elizabeth - of whom we have no record.
2. Zacharias - b about 1663 at what is now Newcastle, Del. Was an infant when his parents moved to Maryland. His widow, whose given name was Martha, survived him. We have no further record except that in her will Martha mentioned a daughter, Jane, appointed a guardian for her children, and refers to Zacharias as 'late of St. Mary's County'.
3. Thomas - our first American-born van Sweringen ancestor - was probably born at St. Mary's about 1665. His wife's name was Jane. He lived in Somerset County where he owned land, and where he died in 1710. He left four sons, named in the order given below in his Will.

## Supplementary and Miscellany

For the genealogy of the Cresap-van Sweringen descendants the reader is referred to 'The History of the Cresaps', where the descendants are listed as far as data could be obtained. A rough estimate is that more than one-half of the Cresap descendants are also van Sweringen descendants. It would require a fair sized volume to list them. On the preceding page the intermarriages are given, with the page in the 'History' where they are recorded. The purpose of the foregoing pages has been to record the antecedents of the van Sweringen-Cresap lineage.

Also, the reader is referred to a 'Family Register of Gerret van Sweringen and Descendants - Compiled by a Member of the Family - second edition, 1894.' The Preface is signed and dated: 'H. H. S., Washington, 1894.' We presume this book is now out of print; the copy we have was loaned by a descendant. We quote from the Preface:

In the preparation of this edition of the Family Register I am indebted for information other than that pertaining to their respective families to Judge Basil S. Ramsey, of Plattsmouth, Neb.; to Mr. Eldred M. Swearingen, of Tuskegee, Ala.; to Mr. Archibald Means, of Peru, Ill.; to Miss Emma V. Mullen, of Washington, D. C.; and to Lieutenant James C. Cresap, of the United States Navy. Lieutenant Cresap furnished the information, gathered from the State Archives at Annapolis, Md., showing that our first American ancestor was Thomas. To the late Mr. Henry B. Swearingen, of Circleville, O., belongs the credit for making it possible for this genealogy to be published. In 1841 he gathered of old men of the family name in Maryland and elsewhere information showing the genealogical lines from Gerret down to many of his descendants.

One Hendrick Sweringe appears to have been in New Netherland before Gerret. He, his wife and two children and a man servant were on Manhattan in 1657, and are mentioned in a list of the names of survivors of the 1655 massacre by the Indians on Staten Island. Two of the children of Hendrick and his wife, Egbertje Jans (i. e. Jan's or Hohan's daughter), were baptised in the Dutch Reformed Church of New Amsterdam, on Manhattan. They were: Johannes, bap. Jan. 20, 1656, with Sponsor, Dirckje Jans, who may have been the mother's sister; and Styn-tje (i. e. Christiana), bap. Nov. 28, 1657, Sponsors were Pieter Jansen, Gerrit Hendricksen and Jannetje Hendricks. The latter two were probably brother and sister, children of one Hendrick.

(Gerret's children by his second wife were: Joseph, Charles, Eleanor, Theresa, Dorothy, and another daughter - name not known - who married William Bladen. Eleanor married a Carroll. The names of these children show how Gerret van Sweringen broke with the old and persistent Dutch and Huguenot custom of naming children alternately for paternal and maternal relatives. He and his household afford an example of rapid Anglicization of Dutch Colonial families. Some of his children dropped the prefix 'van' from the family name.)

### THIRD GENERATION

Children of Thomas and Jane:

1. Thomas, 2. Van, 3. Samuel, and 4. John.

Van was born in Somerset County, Maryland, in 1692. He married Elizabeth Walker about 1715. He was known as 'Maryland Van'. He took up lands in Washington County, Maryland, afterwards found to be covered by a prior grant. As he had made improvements he leased the land for his own lifetime and that of his sons. The family held the land for eighty-nine years. 'Maryland Van' lived to be 109 years old, having lived in three centuries.

### FOURTH GENERATION

Children of Van and Elizabeth:

1. Joseph, 2. John, 3. Samuel, 4. Van, 5. Charles, 6. Thomas, 7. Elizabeth (married Simmons), 8. Sarah (married her cousin, Van, son of Thomas Swearingen II), 9. Ruth (married Daniel Cresap, Sr.), 10. Drusilla (married Thomas Cresap, Jr.), 11. Rebecca (married Tomlinson), 12. Mary (married Phipps).

The Cresap Genealogy (P. 294) gives 1750 as the year of Ruth and Daniel's marriage, and that of Drusilla and Thomas as 1753.

Daniel Cresap, Jr., married - December 13, 1778 - Elizabeth Swearingen, his cousin, daughter of Samuel (P. 295).

Robert Cresap, son of Daniel, Sr., married - 1795 - Susannah Swearingen, his cousin, daughter of Charles (P. 297). Charles was a Lt.-Col. in the Revolutionary War.

Elizabeth Cresap, daughter of Daniel, Jr., married - 1806 - Daniel Stull Sweaingen (son of Charles - P. 301).

Sarah Scott, descendant of Lt. Joseph Cresap, married - 1824 - George Swearingen. We do not find in the Van Sweringen Family Register a George who married a Scott, but there is a Henry, son of Thomas, of the North Carolina branch, who married a Scott (first name not given), and the dates fit with our record of George's marriage. Perhaps one of the Registers has the name wrong.



### THE BLUE JACKETS

John Swearingen, second son of 'Maryland Van', married Catherine Stull in Somerset County, Md. They moved to Fayette County, Pa., settling on 1000 acres of land. They owned thirteen slaves. Their son, Marmaduke, when about seventeen years old, was captured by the Shawnee Indians while out hunting with a younger brother. He agreed to go with his captors and become one of their tribe if they would allow his brother to return home. The Indians agreed to this. 'Duke', as he was called, lived up to his promise. He accompanied the Indians to their village on the Scioto river, and entered with such alacrity and cheerfulness into all the habits - including the sports - of the red men that he soon became very popular among them. When about twenty-four years of age he was chosen as Chief of the Tribe. He took a wife of the Shawnees and reared several children.

When captured Marmaduke wore a blue linsey blouse (or hunting shirt), from which garment he took his Indian name, 'Blue Jacket'. He had one son who was called 'Jim Blue Jacket', who was quite well known on the upper Miami river during the war of 1812. Jim Blue Jacket also raised a family of several children, who were removed with the Shawnee nation from Ohio to Kansas in 1833. One of these children, Charles Blue Jacket, became a well educated, intelligent gentleman.

Neither of these Blue Jackets should be confused with the Blue Jacket who was Cornstalk's Lieutenant at the battle of Point Pleasant (1774), and who in 1795 signed the treaty of Greenville following defeat of the Indians by Anthony Wayne.

### THE RAILROAD MAGNATES

While many of the van Sweringen descendants have achieved success and notoriety in various lines, it remained for Oris P. and Mantis J., bachelor brothers of Cleveland, Ohio, to rise to dizzy heights in the financial world. They succeeded, over a period of years - the first quarter of the twentieth century - in developing a vast financial organisation, through which they controlled hundreds of millions of investments. They financed great railroad systems as though it were child's play. When the depression struck in 1929 their vast fortune, like many others, was greatly reduced. They were descendants of Thomas van Sweringen, brother of Ruth and Drusilla, who married Daniel and Thomas, sons of Col. Thomas Cresap. Mantis James died Dec. 12, 1935 (born 1881), and Oris Paxton, Nov. 23, 1936 (born 1879).

### PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION OF GARRET VAN SWERINGEN AND OTHERS

At a General Assembly begun and held at St. Marys in the Province of Maryland, die Apriles, Cacyly. Sc. A. D. 1669.

To the Right Hon. the Lord Proprietary of the Province of Maryland and Avalon Lord Baron of Baltimore:

The humble peticon of Garrett Vansweringen, Barbarah de Barrette, wife of the said Garrett. Elizabeth Vansweringen, and Zacharias Vansweringen, children of the said Garrett and Barbarah. Robert Roeland, Jean Jourdain, John Vanheock, Charles de le Roche, and Peter Johnson, all resydants and inhabitants of this Province.

Humbly sheweth unto your Lordship, that your petitioner Garrett Vansweringen was born in Beemsterdam, in Holland, under the dominion of the States General of the United Provinces. Barbarah de Barrette in Valenchene, in the Torr Cocentryes belonging to the King of Spayne. Elizabeth Vansweringen in Newamstel in Delaware Bay, then under the dominion of the said States Generall. Zacharias Vansweringen there also. Issac De Barrette at Harlem, in Holland aforesaid, Jean Jourdain at Ravan in the kingdom of France, John Vanheock in the collony of Virginia, under the dominion of his Majesty of G. Britain, Charles de le Roch within the kingdom of France, and Peter Johnson in the kingdom of Sweden, and your petitioners, being now removed into this Province, by and upon confidence of your Lordship's declaration of the second of July, one thousand six hundred and forty nine. Whereby you did empower your governor to grant lands unto any persons of French, Dutch, Spanish, Swedish, or other foreign descent in the same in as ample manner and upon the same terms and provisoes as he was impowered to grant lands to any person of British or Irish descent, and during their said abode within this Province your petitioners have beene alwayes faithful and obedient unto your Lordship's lawes: yett for that your petitioners are not of British or Irish descent, they cannot take benefit of the lawes and customes of this province and others, the good people of this province of British and Irish descent may to their great losse, prejudice, and hinderance as alsoe to the deterring of divers others of the foreigne nations aforesaid by coming into this province with useful artificers and handcrafts men.

May it therefore please your Lordship of your abundant goodness and wonted care of and over this province, that it may be ordained and enacted by the Right Hon. The Lord Proprietary of this province, by and with the advice of the upper and lower house of this present General Assembly that your Lordships humble petitioners . . . shall be adjudged, reputed and taken as naturall borne people of this province of Maryland

and alsoe that they and every one of them shall and may henceforth by the same authority be enabled and adjudged to all intents and purposes able to demand, challenge, aske, have, hold, and enjoye any lands tenements, hereditaments, and rents within this province as heirs to any of their ancestors by reason of any descent in fee simple or fee taylor, general or speciall, or remainder upon any fee taylor, general or special, or come to them or any of them, by any descent in fee simple, fee taylor general or special, or remainder upon any estate taylor as aforesaid or by any other lawful conveyance, or conveyances whatsoever, as if they and every one of them had been born within this our province or were of British or Irish descent as aforesaid and alsoe that they and every one of them from henceforth may and shall be able to prosecute, maintain, and avow, justify and defend all manner of accounts, suits, plaints and other demands whatsoever, as freely, liberally, frankly, fully, lawfully, and securely as if they and every one of them had been naturally born within this province of Maryland or were of British or Irish descent and as any other person or persons naturally born within this province, or of British or Irish descent, may anyways lawfully doe any laws, provisoes, act, or custome of this province, or other thing whatsoever, had, made, ordayned or done within this province to the contrary thereof in any wise to the contrary notwithstanding.

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These petitioners were granted naturalization by act of the General Assembly, April, 1669. The 'Application' was copied from Liber W. H. & L., folios 39 and 40, old record books, Province of Maryland. The 'Act of Naturalization', Ibid. folio 127.

All of the material on Naturalization copied, Sept. 16, 1903, by Marian Scott Franklin, ninth in descent from Garret Van Sweringen, from a paper printed in 1792 by order of Captain Harry van Sweringen.