

## THE VAN SCHAICK FAMILIES IN THE NETHERLANDS

### (a) GENEALOGY

The genealogy of our Dutch ancestors in The Netherlands is most difficult to ascertain because no records of baptism in Westbroek were maintained before 1640. Fortunately, some other data sources are available. One Dutch genealogist who was approached simply "threw up his hands" and said the task was impossible because the birth of Cornelis Aertsen occurred in 1636. Nevertheless, it was possible to enlist the services of another Dutch genealogist, Mr. John F. Eekhoutte of Bunnik in Utrecht Province. In addition, Mr. G. Masmeyer Of Westbroek, who is the author of a recent history of the Westbroek-Achttienhoven Dutch Reformed Church in Westbroek, furnished information concerning those Van Schaik families connected with the church.

It was pointed out by a genealogist of the Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie at The Hague as well as by Mr. Eekhoutte that the surname spellings Van Schaick, Van Schayck and Van Schaik were, to a considerable extent, interchangeable and one should not be too concerned if variances were found in the surname spelling in their early time periods.

In the 1930s an investigation of the records in Holland was made by American Genealogists John Ross Delafield and William J. Hoffman concerning the ancestry of Goosen Gerrits Van Schaick who came to New Netherland in 1637 from Westbroek. Mr. Delafield wrote an article in 1934 about the Van Schaick family which was published in the series "An Armory of American Families of Dutch Descent". From this article it appears that the Van Schaick line was traced as far back as 1520, the approximate birth year of Theunis (Theunis Anthonis) van Schaeyck. However, Cornelis Aertsen was not among the listed descendants of Theunis. Nevertheless, the research provided one bit of valuable information, namely, the identity of Adriaen Cornelis of Westbroek, in 1623, as the maternal grandfather of certain minor children of the late Willem Adriaensz and his wife Gijbertgen Goosendr van Schayck who lived in Westbroek. This information was found in the court records of Westbroek. It is more than a coincidence that the father of our Cornelis of Westbroek bore the given name of Adriaen. Besides son Cornelis Aertsen, Adriaen had sons Jacob Aertsen and Willem Aertsen. Jacob married Dirlije Jansdochter in 1628. Willem Aertsen married Aalbj Hendrilis Of Westbroek in 1628. No record of

the marriage of Cornelis Aertsen was found. Thus, it must be assumed that he was married in New Netherland.

(b) THE VILLAGE OF WESTBROEK

If one were seeking to find a small traditional Dutch village in Holland one would need to look no further than the village of Westbroek in Utrecht Province. It is located approximately three kilometers northwest of a residential section of the City of Utrecht, a metropolis of some 500,000 inhabitants.

Westbroek is connected to the City of Utrecht by a two-lane paved road lined with trees. While travelling along the road one passes by open farmsteads with many cattle grazing. The land is flat. No houses or commercial businesses are along this particular stretch of road. As you approach the village you can see on your right, in the distance, a windmill. Straight ahead is a "kerk" (church) tower with a clock. You approach a sign next to the road with the word "Westbroek". In a minute or two you pass several houses on both sides of the road and enter an intersection. You can either go right or left as the churchyard lies directly ahead. One has now arrived at the main street of Westbroek. Parallel with the street is a canal that can accommodate small boats. Its principal use is probably for drainage.

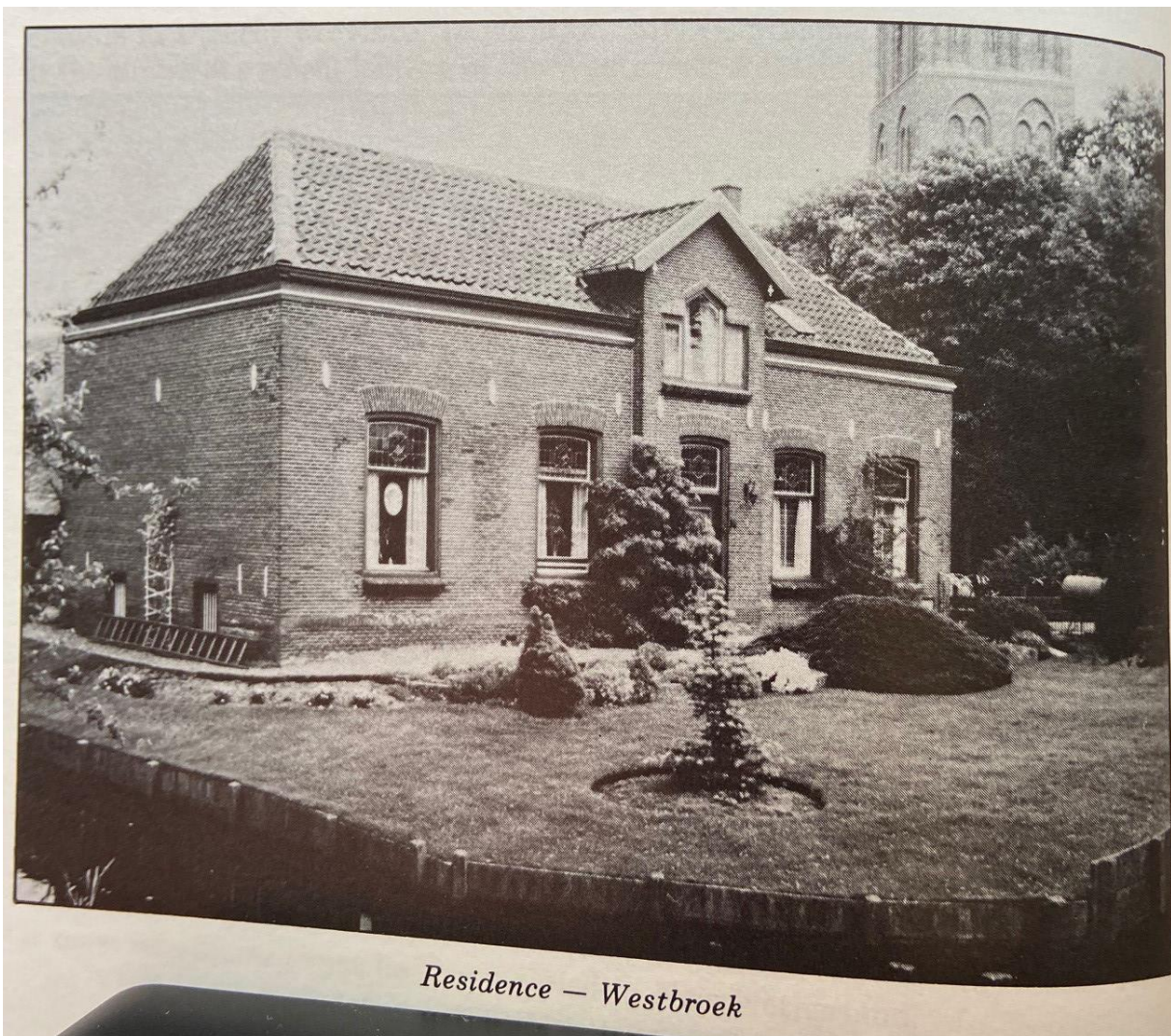
The main street is a two-lane paved road which extends northwest outside of the village about four kilometers to the village of Tienhoven and southeast about three and a half kilometers through the adjoining community of Achttienhoven to the village of Nieuwe Wetering. The village of Westbroek consists of approximately sixty residences mostly located along both sides of the tree-lined main street. There is a school, a small municipal building, a grocery store, a small cafeteria and a small lunchroom-bar. There is no service station in the village. No industrial plants are located there or on adjacent land. The windmill, which is called a "corn flour mill", together with a residence and adjacent farm buildings, stands about three hundred meters south of the main street. It is a working mill used mainly for grinding cattle feed.



*Windmill at Westbroek, Holland*

The brick "kerk" and the residences are the most impressive part of the village. Most residences are constructed of brownish-red brick, a few have a stucco finish on their exteriors or a combination of brick and stucco. A few houses have thatched roofs, but most are of tile, some orange-red in color. Several of the homes are two-story with dormer style windows. A number of the homes have attached barns that are used when the cows are milked and for housing the cattle during extreme winter conditions. Most residences have adjacent vegetable gardens and fruit trees. There were no shacks or derelict buildings.

The homes are neat, well maintained and beautifully landscaped with beds of colorful flowers in the front and side yards. Curtains of lace draped in different styles are displayed in the windows of each residence.



*Residence — Westbroek*

One was impressed by the neatness and cleanliness of the roadsides. Not a bit of trash could be seen. Grass along the banks of the canal and roadsides was well maintained.

So far as it was possible to determine, no Van Schaicks are presently living in the village nor have any family members resided there for about one hundred and fifty years.

The village has experienced perilous times during its several hundred year history. The church is nearly five hundred years old, the tower standing all of that time so quietly in the middle of the village. It has been witness to many events both joyful and tragic. In 1606 the village suffered from a plague epidemic which resulted in the death of about half of the population.

The village was the site of the historic "Battle of Westbroek" which occurred on Christmas Day in the year 1481. It was between the forces of David of Burgundy, Bishop of Utrecht, and those of Joost van Lailang, a Dutch nobleman from the "t Gooi" area about twenty-five kilometers north of Utrecht. Before opposing forces collided at the Anthonie Dike, the village was pillaged and burned by Lailang's men. The church was spared, but the villagers who did not flee were massacred. The battle between Lailang's five thousand men in their iron coats of mail and the Bishop's soldiers was fierce. Although the Bishop was not defeated, some six hundred of his able-bodied men of Utrecht were lying at the dike or in the frozen ditches around the dike when the battle ended.

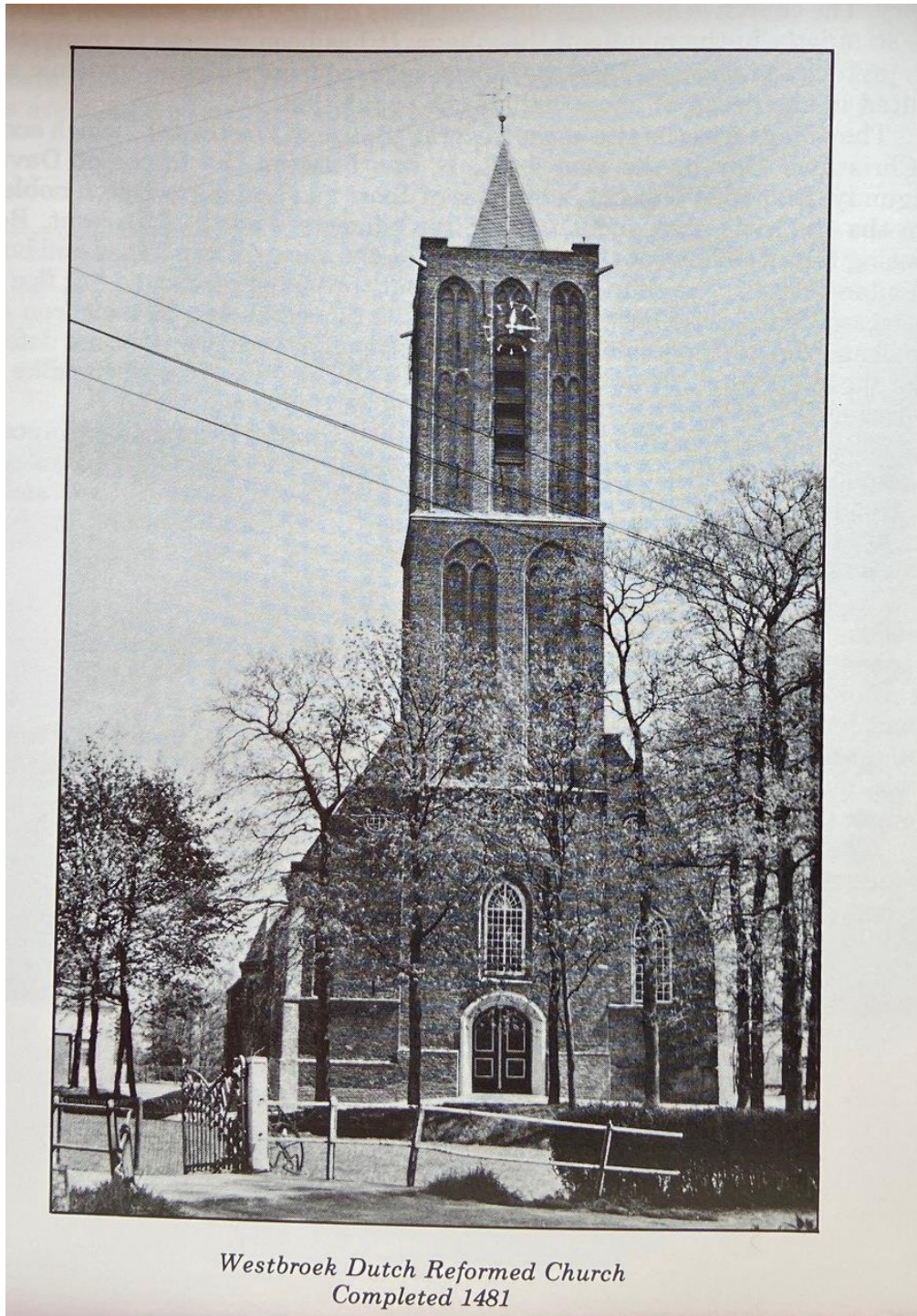
The Dutch were attacked in 1672 by the combined forces of France and England. Louis XIV sent his army into Holland. They occupied Westbroek and the area to the north. William of Orange ordered the dikes opened and soon the land area of a large portion of the country was a sheet of water and the French army was forced to retreat.

In 1795, a French army under command of General Pichegru took Amsterdam. Once again the United Provinces were under foreign rule. In 1806 Napoleon made his brother Louis King of Holland. However, Louis failed to carry out some of Napoleon's edicts concerning Dutch trade with England and in 1810 he was forced to abdicate. Napoleon then annexed Holland to France and brought it under his direct rule. This rule continued to 1813 when the Dutch revolted. The revolt, aided by Prussian troops, overthrew the French rule and the House of Orange was restored.

The citizens of Westbroek were again witness to foreign rule imposed by a conquering army when the German Wehrmacht forces with their Blitzkrieg succeeded in taking over Holland in May of 1941. Four years later Holland was freed when troops of the allied armies forced Hitler's troops to surrender.

(c) THE WESTBROEK-ACHTTIENHOVEN REFORMED CHURCH

The foundations for the church were laid in 1467. The church structure and tower were constructed in 1479-1481. The church is a large one for the size of the community. One historian has stated that "this little village got this large church, worthy of a city, as a monument upon the grave of Bishop Boudewijn van Sterkenburg, Bishop of Tripolien Partibus, Cistercian Monk, Suffragan Bishop of Friesland and Suffragan Bishop of Jan van Arkel."

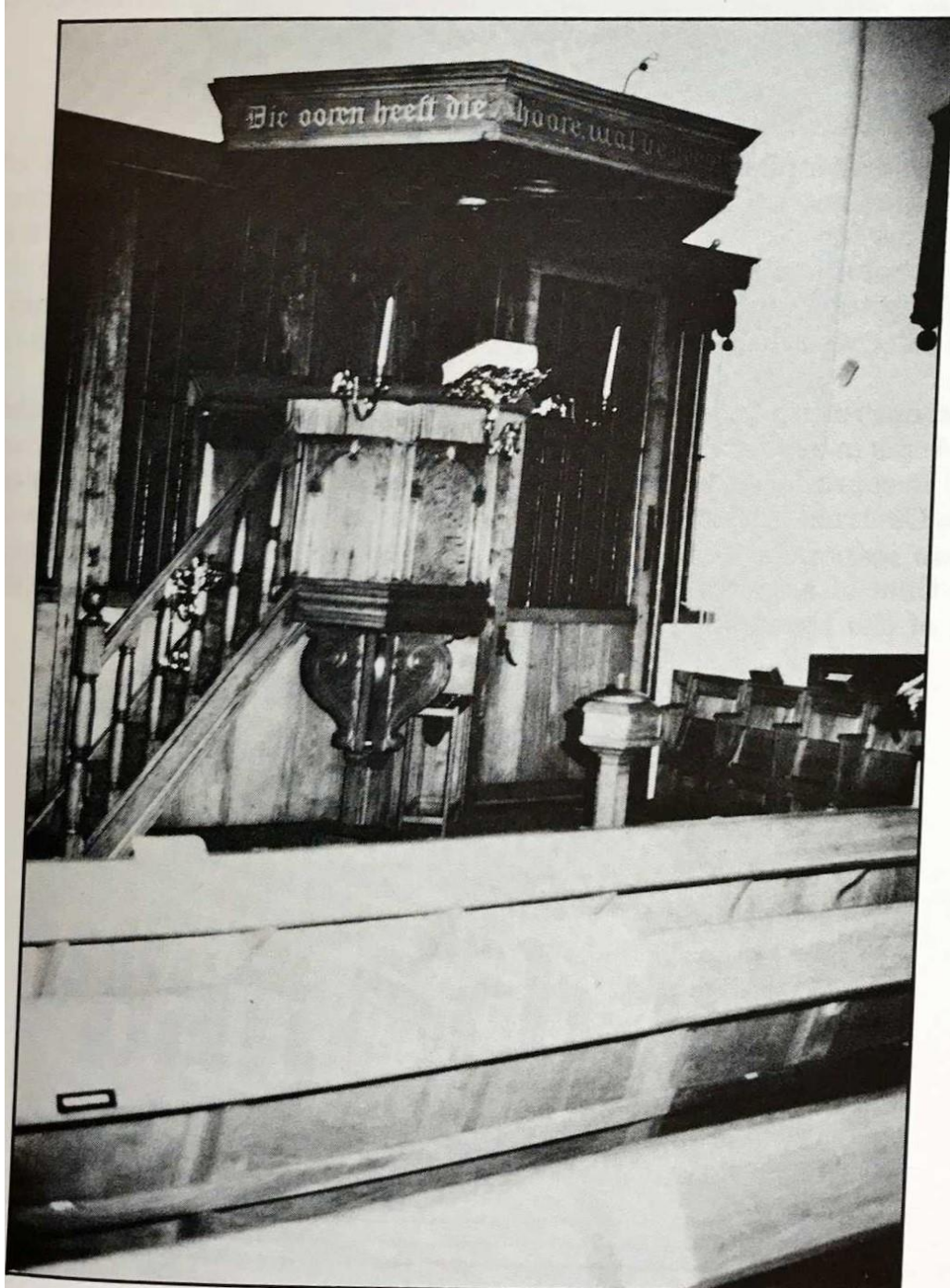


*Westbroek Dutch Reformed Church  
Completed 1481*

Early in the fourteenth century a small Roman Catholic Chapel had been erected on the present site of the church. It was in this Chapel that the Bishop, who was quite influential, was buried 23 March 1366. His tombstone is located in the chancel of the existing church. It is a beautiful sculpture hewn from a rare kind of dark blue marble, representing the Bishop in full Pontificals, in a lying position. After the Reformation, the numerous marble statues of Christ, his disciples and the Virgin Mary were removed from the church, but the memorial tombstone of a Roman Catholic Bishop remains as an honored resident of the chancel.

The bell for the church was cast in 1611. It bears the inscription "If you hear this stout stroke, think of the day you will die." History records that the bell tolled over the years in times of prosperity and adversity and in mourning and grief.

It is not known when the Van Schaik association with the church began. The church records reveal membership in the church as early as 1615. Records are missing for earlier years as well as for some later years.



Interior of Westbroek Church

The Bible lying on the reading table in the photograph was given to the church by a Van Schaik family in 1658. It is known as the States-Bible, an official authorized version. The church history written by Mr. G. Masmeijer reveals several instances of the relationship between members of the Van Schaik families and the old church.

In 1668, Goyert Jurriaansz van Schaik, son of Jurriaan, was buried under the church floor.

In 1728 Pieter Jurian van Schaik was Church Warden. Peter Goyert van Schaik was Church Warden in 1738. Goijert van Schaik was a Deacon of the church in 1745. Grafsteen van Schaik was buried under the church floor in the year 1750.

The church Deacons who were in charge of the village school selected Hendrik van Schaik as Schoolmaster in 1732.

In the year 1799 the need of the poor was great and the church was poor. Goiert van Schaik was Alderman of Westbroek at the time. He organized a subscription among the congregation and townspeople for the relief of the poor. Goiert signed for fifty guilders which was a comparatively large sum for those days.

The last Van Schaik family members of the church were Cornelis Goyenden van Schaik and his wife Neeltje Beyers Los.

#### (d) VAN SCHAICK COAT OF ARMS

When the Compiler and his wife Marjorie were in Holland in May of 1982 they visited the Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie at The Hague in connection with a Coat of Arms for the Van Schaick family. At that time two different Coats of Arms, one in color and another in black and white, were presented to the Bureau. Upon checking their records the Bureau advised us that the design we had which was not in color was the correct one. They also advised the correct colors for that design.

Upon our return from Holland we commissioned an artist to draw and paint a Coat of Arms in accordance with the specifications given us. A photograph was taken and is reproduced on the following page. A copy of this photograph was sent to the Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie asking for authentication in writing. The Bureau responded that the Coat of Arms sent to them is authentic.

The Coat of Arms was originally issued to Heynrick Jacobsz. van Schaick' alderman of the Heerlijkheid Hagenstein on 1 April 1554.





**Van Schaick**

*This information is from Descendants of Cornelis Aertsen Van Schaick, Vol I, pp.34-41.*