
The Van Aaken and ** * Allied Families*

Compiled by Miss Annie R. Winfield



AMONG the early families of Ulster county (or Esopus as it was more generally called in early days) that of Van Aaken is conspicuous, especially from the long line of descendants, now widely scattered and many of whom attained distinction.

“In Holland the family name is traced back 1500 years, to the 4th century to John Van Aken, the founder of the ancient city of Aken, now generally known as Aix La Chappele, located in Germany between the Rhine and Meuse rivers, on the border of Holland.” “There is a section called Aken or Acken, one mile south-east of Opmeer, a village eight miles north-west of Hoom in the Province of North Holland, whence came some of the most prominent and enterprising of our early immigrants. In the same province are north and south Akendam, two villages, about six miles distant from Haarlem.”*

* From *Aardryks Kundig Hand Woordenboek Van Nederland* (Geographical Dictionary of Netherland) by S. Gille Heringa, 1874, p. 4.

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In this country the name is first on record at Fort Orange (now Albany) in 1652, in which year Jan Koster Van Aaken, as he wrote his name, appears as a trader and purchaser of real estate on Broadway, State and James streets. He was made a magistrate in 1668. Although he could and did write his name, he, like many others at the time, often made his mark—two triangles crossing each other. If he had descendants, they are not known. Van Aacken or Aken simply describes a person as of or from Aachen.

Among the early immigrants to America was a Pieter Van Ecke, a planter from Leyden. He came over April 25, 1659, *In de Bever*, Capt. Jan Reyerz Van der Beets. No further record is found of this man, although some think he was the father of Marinus Van Aaken, who, in 1689, was on the roll of persons who took the oath of allegiance to the English government in Kingston that year.

At what date Marinus settled in the Esopus country is not known. The first child born to him and his wife Pieterneel de Pue, as per Kingston records, was Peter, in 1685. We find a Cornelia Van Aken married to Jan Sjammers, who, we think, was their daughter, although we have no record of her birth.

We think Cornelia Van Aken, who married Jan Chambers, a sister of Marinus, as Marinus and his wife were witnesses at the baptism of the second child born to Cornelia and Jan Chambers. Cornelia, widow of Jan Chambers, married for her second husband, Jan Van Etten and says she was born in Zeeland.

If she was born in Zeeland, could she and Marinus be the children of Pieter Van Ecke who came from

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Leyden in 1659? No mention is made of his being accompanied by any one.

Cornelia Van Aken married Jan Chambers. Children:

Andries Chambers, Apr. 28, 1693, K.

Lysbet Chambers, Mch. 8, 1696, K.

Margriet Chambers, Sept. 25, 1698, K.

Marinus Chambers, June 8, 1701, K.

Sara Chambers, Mch. 12, 1704, K.

Edward Chambers, Aug. 11, 1706, K.

Jan Van Etten, widower of Jannetje Roosa, married Cornelia Van Aaken, widow of Jan Chambers, born in Zealand, and both residing in Hurley. Banns registered 30 May, and June 22, 1731.