

The Netherlands (Dutch) Connection

The author of this website, Franklin P. Mason, is about 7% Dutch.

His Dutch ancestry comes from his paternal grandmother, Genevieve Knox Barnes, through her ancestors:

Andrew Anderson 1816-1876

Elizabeth Toll 1706-1772

Andrew Anderson was the grandfather of Genevieve Knox Barnes and the husband of Cordilia L. Knox.

Elizabeth Toll was the 4th great grandmother of Genevieve Knox Barnes and the wife of Pierre Cornu.

Many of the groups of Europeans who colonized America did so for religious freedom, for example the Puritans in New England and the Quakers in Pennsylvania.

That was not the case for the Dutch. The Dutch were traders, businesspeople.

The Dutch immigrated to America for only a short period, from about 1614 to 1674. Most of that migration occurred to New Netherland.¹ New Netherland was a colony, conceived in 1621, by the Dutch West India Company on the east coast of North America to capitalize on the North American fur trade. It extended from Albany, New York, in the north to Delaware in the south.

Most of the people who came to New Netherlands from the Netherlands came under the auspices of the Dutch West India Company.

The colonial population of New Netherlands was never very large. For example, in 1650 it was between 1,500 to 2,000, and in 1674 it was between 8,000 to 9,000.

New Netherland ceased to exist in 1664 when the English wrested control of it from the Dutch, turning its capital, New Amsterdam, into New York City.

The history of New Netherlands and its people is detailed in the following book:

A Record of Achievements of the People of the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys in New York State, Included Within the Present Counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Washington, Saratoga, Montgomery, Fulton, Schenectady, Columbia, and Greene, Cuyler Renolds, Lewis Historical Pub. Co., New York, 1911²

Dutch surnames are not easy to follow from one generation to the next. This is true because they are “patronymic”. A patronymic name is one that is created when a prefix or suffix is attached to the father’s name. For example, the patronymic surname *Johansson* can be broken into two parts: *Johans’ son*. This means that someone with the surname Johansson was the son of Johan.

Likewise, a surname of *Johansdotter* is the patronymic version used for the daughter of someone named Johan. Because of this patronymic naming pattern, a brother and sister may have similar, but different, surnames from one another.³

¹ Refer to: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Netherland

² www.schenectadyhistory.org/families/hmgfm/index.html

³ For more information, refer to: <https://www.legacytree.com/blog/dutch-surnames>