

## 596/1116. JOOST JANS VAN METEREN

Born c1656 Gelderland Province, The Netherlands  
 Died before 13 Jun 1706 Salem, Salem County, New Jersey  
 Married 597/1117. Sarah Du Bois 12 Dec 1682 New Paltz, Ulster County, New York  
     Born 14 Sep 1662 Hurley, Ulster County, New York  
     Died 1726 Salem, Salem County, New Jersey

## Children:

298/558. Jan Joosten van Meteren (John Van Meter)  
     b. (bapt) 14 Oct 1683 Kingston, Ulster County, New York  
     d. 1745 Frederick County, Virginia  
     m. (1) 299/559. Sara Bodine 1705 Somerset County, New Jersey  
     (2) Margaret Mollenauer c1710

Rebecca Joosten van Meteren  
     b. bapt 26 Apr 1686 Kingston, Ulster County, New York  
     d. 1775 Frederick County, Maryland  
     m. Cornelius Elting 03 Sep 1704 Kingston, Ulster County, New York

Lysbeth Joosten van Meteren  
     b. bapt 03 Mar 1689 Kingston, Ulster County, New York  
     d.  
     m.

Isaac Joosten van Meteren (Van Meter)  
     b. c1692  
     d. 1757 Fort Pleasant, Hampshire County, Virginia  
     m. (1) Catalina ----- Hendrick  
     (2) Annetje Wynkoop c1717 Mooreland Manor, Pennsylvania

Hendrick Joosten van Meteren  
     b. bapt 01 Sep 1695 Kingston, Ulster County, New York  
     d. 08 Dec 1759 Salem, Salem County, New Jersey  
     m. (1) Rebecca Du Bois 03 July 1741 Philadelphia, Philadelphia  
     County, Pennsylvania  
     (2) Mary Feltere

Rachel Joosten van Meteren  
     b. c1697 Raritan, Somerset County, New Jersey  
     d.  
     m.

Abraham Joosten van Meteren  
     b. c1700 Somerset County, New Jersey  
     d.  
     m. Eliza -----

Jacob Joosten van Meteren  
     b. c1705  
     d.  
     m.

Joost Jans van Meteren was a son of Jan Joosten van Meteren and Macyken Hendricksen of the Province of Gelderland in The Netherlands, who arrived in America on 12 September 1662 with their five children on the ship Fox and settled at Wiltwyck, which became Kingston, in Ulster County, New York. Sarah Du Bois was a daughter of Louis Du Bois and Catherine Blanchan, French Huguenots who married in Mannheim, Germany, came to America (probably on the ship St. Jan Baptist or St. Jean Baptiste from England which landed on 06 August 1661) and settled at Hurley in Ulster County. (Data of Alice Lewis Gunter, Independence, MO, Betty Meredith Peger, Brownsville, KY, and Barry W. Downs, Leitchfield, KY, 1984; BAPTISMAL AND MARRIAGE REGISTERS OF THE OLD DUTCH CHURCH OF KINGSTON, ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, 1660-1809, Roswell Randall Hoes, De Vinne Press, New York, 1891, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1980; WHO WAS WHO IN HARDIN COUNTY, Hardin County Historical Society, Elizabethtown, 1941, photocopy; THE VIRGINIA GERMANS, Klaus Wust, The University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, 1969; IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS, Frederick Adams Virkus, extracted from THE COMPENDIUM OF AMERICAN GENEALOGY, Volume VII, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1980; HISTORY OF NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK, AND ITS OLD FAMILIES, Ralph Le Fevre, Albany, 1909, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1973; THE VAN METERENS OF HOLLAND AND AMERICA, Amelia Clay Lewis Van Meter Rogers, REGISTER OF THE KENTUCKY STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Frankfort, Volume 34, Number 106, January, 1936; A GENEALOGY OF THE DUKE SHEPHERD VAN METRE FAMILY, Samuel Gordon Smyth, The New Era Printing Company, Lancaster, PA, 1909.)

The intention of Joost Jans van Meteren and Sarah Du Bois to marry was publicized by banns at the Old Dutch Church at Kingston, New York, beginning on 18 November 1682, and their wedding occurred on 12 December 1682: (BAPTISMAL AND MARRIAGE REGISTERS OF THE OLD DUTCH CHURCH OF KINGSTON.)

1682 12 Dec. Joost Janz, j.m. of Meteren, in Gelderlandt (Gelderland), resid. in Mormur (Marbletown), and Sara Du Bois, j.d. of Kingston, resid. in the Nieuwe Pals (New Paltz). Married in the Paltz (New Paltz). First publication of Banns, 18 Nov.

"J.m." and "j.d." stand for a young man or young woman who has not been married before, although their age actually may not be particularly young. (OLD DUTCH CHURCH.)

When Jan Joosten van Meteren was baptized his sponsors were his grandparents Jan Joosten and Macyken Hendricksen: (OLD DUTCH CHURCH.)

Jan, child of Joost Janz and Sara du Bois, was baptized 14 October 1683 in the presence of Jan Joosten, Mayken Hendricz and Jacob du Bois.

Rebecca, child of Joost J. van Meteren and Sara Du Bois, was baptized 26 April 1686 in the presence of Gysbert Crom and Catryn du Bois.

Lysbeth, child of Jooste Jansen and Sara du Bois, was baptized 03 March 1689 in the presence of David du Bois and Janneken Meulenaer.

Hendrick, child of Joost Jansse and Sara de Boys, was baptized 01 September 1695 with Abram de Boys and Jan Hamel present.

Isaac Joosten van Meteren was born about 1692. A record of his baptism is not in the Kingston register nor have baptismal records of the other children been found. (THE VAN METERENS.)

The "en" suffix to a name such as Joost is a Dutch patronymic meaning "son of." A child of Jan used the

surname Jans, Janse and/or Jansen. Jan, which was Dutch for John, also appears as Johannes in the early New York records which were a combination of Dutch, French and English phonetics. The Dutch word "van" means "from" so Joost Jans van Meteren was Joost, Jans' son, from Meteren. Dutch women used their maiden names after marriage, as did Macyken Hendricks when she witnessed the baptism of her grandson. Macyken was a daughter of Hendrick (Hendricks, Hendricx, or Hendricksen). There has been no attempt to reconcile all of the variant spellings of names from these records which are generally obvious in their identification of individuals.

On 16 December 1681 Jan Joosten van Meteren and his wife Macyken made a will (testamentary deposition) declaring that whichever was the survivor would have possession of all of their property; lands, houses, personal effects, money, gold and silver, either coined or uncoined. After the death of both their eldest son Joost would receive one-half of the entire estate and then one-half of the remainder. He was to get one-half of the land at Marbletown and then share the remaining half equally with his brother Gysbert. Geertje inherited property known as Wassamaker's land. The children of deceased daughter Lysbeth were to receive their portion in money from Joost, Gysbert and Geertje. Catherine was not named in the will, so she probably had received her share of her parents' estate previously.

Jan Joosten van Meteren may have died before 13 June 1706, when an inventory of his estate was filed under the name Jan Joosten and marked "Dutch." (New Jersey Calendar of Wills, page 480, quoted in A GENEALOGY OF THE DUKE SHEPHERD VAN METRE FAMILY). Appraised by Joris van Neste and Hendricks Reinersen at a value of 245 pounds, 14 shillings and no pence, the estate included six negro slaves, a man, woman and four children, worth 145 pounds. The appraisers were neighbors of Jan Joosten van Meteren on the South Branch of the Raritan River. The appraisal was affirmed by "John Van Mator" in Burlington. This act indicates that "John Van Mator" was the legal heir. "John Van Mator" obviously was Jan Joosten's 23-year-old grandson and namesake, Jan Joosten van Meteren, who anglicized his name to John van Meter. He must have been the legal heir because his father Joost Jans van Meteren was considered to be dead. The inventory suggests that the grandson lived on the property in Burlington County and that the grandfather was residing in Somerset County at the time of his death in 1706.

However, Joost Jans van Meteren apparently was alive on 30 October 1706 when Sarah Van Meter, eldest child of Jan van Metere (John Van Meter) and Sara Bodine, was baptized. Jooste Janse Van Metre and Kathleyn Bodin (Bodyn), wife of Isaac, were her sponsors. (A GENEALOGY OF THE DUKE SHEPHERD VAN METRE FAMILY.)

Published tradition (THE VAN METERENS OF HOLLAND AND AMERICA; A GENEALOGY OF THE DUKE SHEPHERD VAN MATRE FAMILY) appears to confuse Joost Jans van Meteren with his son Jan Joosten van Meteren who seems to be the first of the family to anglicize his name and was known as John Van Meter. It is unlikely that Joost Jans van Meteren was John Van Meter, "the noted Indian trader and explorer of the Shenandoah Valley" who "'Spied out the land' about the time of Governor Spotswood's Expedition, 1716." (THE VAN METERENS, page 34.) If Joost Jans van Meteren anglicized his name it probably would have been Joost van Meter, not John Van Meter. Since little is known about Joost Jans van Meteren, perhaps he was an Indian trader, who explored the west before his son John followed in his footsteps. It is possible that he did recommend to his sons John and Isaac that they move to the Shenandoah Valley, as the tradition implies, but, chronologically, it seems that most of the legend that has been attributed to Joost Jans van Meteren, under the name, John Van Meter, should apply to his son.

Joost Jans van Meteren definitely was dead by 19 June 1714 when his widow Sarah Du Bois, using her maiden name, as was the custom, bought 3000 acres of land in Salem County, New Jersey, with her brother, Jacob Du Bois, and her sons John and Isaac Van Meter: (THE VAN METERENS.)

'An Indenture dated June 19, 1714, between Colonel Daniel Coxe, of Burlington, of the one part, and Jacob du Bois, of the county of Ulster New York, and Sarah du Bois of the county of Salem, and John Van Metre and

Isaac Van Metre, of the County and division aforesaid, of the other part,' recites that Daniel Coxe purchased Thomas William's land in Salem County - 7,000 acres - in consideration of 'L750 lawful pounds money of New York, at eight shillings the ounce,' and the said Coxe conveys unto the said Jacob du Bois, Sara du Bois, John Van Metre and Isaac Van Metre, 3,000 acres beginning on a branch of the Maurice River, and being part of the 7,000 acres taken up on the right of the three property purchases of Thomas Williams by Daniel Coxe (Liber, D.D., p. 316, Salem Deeds). Shourds, the Salem county historian, states that 'these parties divided their lands by the compass, the du Bois taking theirs on the north side of a line and the Van Metres on the south side. The Van Metres continued to purchase until they owned a very large portion of the land reaching from the Overshot Mill on Upper Alloways Creek, near Daretown, southeasterly to Fork Bridge, about 6,000 acres in all' (Shourd's 'History of Fenwick's Colony,' pp. 302-4). The grantees thereof were Sarah du Bois, wife or widow, of the elder John Van Metre; her two sons, John and Isaac Van Metre; and her brother, Jacob du Bois. Here Sarah established her son Isaac permanently, as she thought, by a deed dated 27 May 1726, reciting 'for and in consideration of the love, good will and affection I have and do bear toward my loving and dutiful son Isaac Van Metre of the province aforesaid,' the mother transfers to him three hundred and two acres of land lying at Pile's Grove between Nickomus Run and Salem Creek. Possession of this property was taken over by Isaac on the 26th of May, 1726, in the presence of Cornelius Elting, Jr. (Liber D., p. 203, Salem Deeds). In Salem, prior to 1709, is a record in the 'Eare Marke Book' reciting that John and Isaac Van Metre Jr. had recorded cattle and swine (Ear Mark Book, Salem Co., N.J., p. 7).

The Salem River and Alloway Creek rise near Daretown, east of the city of Salem, and flow west into the Delaware River. The Maurice River begins about ten miles east of Daretown and runs south into Delaware Bay. (Map of New Jersey, ROAD ATLAS, Rand-McNally and Company, Chicago, 1975.)

Cornelius Elting (Eltinge, Elten) who married Rebecca Joosten van Meteren was a son of Jan Elting and Jacomyntje Slecht who were married about 1677. Cornelius was baptized in 1681. His brother Roelif, who was baptized on 27 October 1678, married Sarah Du Bois, daughter of Abraham Du Bois, in 1703. Abraham was a brother of Sarah Du Bois who married Joost Jan van Meteren. (HISTORY OF NEW PALTZ.) Rebecca Joosten van Meteren and her husband Cornelius Elting had ten children. (THE VAN METERENS.) Her 1704 marriage record, which was undated, described Rebecca as a native of Marbletown, living in Kingston: (OLD DUTCH CHURCH.)

Cornelis Elten, j.m., born in Horly (Hurley), and resid. in Kingstowne, and  
Rebecca Van Meteren, j.d., born in Mormeltown (Marbletown), and resid. in  
Kingstowne. First publication of Bann, 3 Sept.

Hendrick (Henry) van Meteren was married several times. His last wife Mary was a sister of Erasmus Feltere. He left ten children when he died in Salem County, New Jersey, in 1759. (THE VAN METERENS.)

Annetje (Anne, Anna, Hannah, Annetgie, Annetke) Wynkoop who married Isaac Van Meter about 1717 at Mooreland Manor, Pennsylvania, was a daughter of Garritt Wynkoop and Jacomytge Fakker. Isaac Van Meter was a founder of the Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church in Salem County, New Jersey. He was the first signer of the covenant, followed by his wife Hannah, son Henry and daughter Sarah. Isaac had seven children, all born in Ulster County, New York, between 1694 and 1713: (THE VAN METERENS.)

Henry Van Meter who married his cousin Rebecca Du Bois, daughter of Isaac and  
Rebecca, on 07 March 1741 at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania

Sarah Van Meter who was baptized 23 February 1722 and married John Richman on  
27 January 1741/2

Rebecca Van Meter who married Abraham Hite, son of Joost Hite in 1751

Garrett Van Meter who was born in February 1734; married a widow, Mrs. Ann Markee Sibley, in 1756; was a colonel commanding a militia regiment under General George Washington in the Revolutionary War; and inherited his father's estate at Fort Pleasant in what is now Hardy County, West Virginia, where he died in 1788

Jacob Van Meter

Catherine Van Meter who married George McCulloch and presumably died with issue between 1757 and 1768

Hilda Van Meter

Isaac Van Meter, who moved his family to Virginia in 1744 and built a home called Fort Pleasant in the Indian Old Fields, was killed and scalped by Indians a short distance from his fort in 1757, leaving a widow and four children. His will, dated 15 February 1754, was probated in 1757 and is recorded in the old Clerk's Office at Romney, West Virginia. (THE VAN METERENS.) Dated 15 February 1754 and proved on 14 December 1757 in Hampshire County, Virginia, the will of Isaac Van Meter, who described himself as "of the South Branch of the Potomac," named his wife Annah and children Henry, Jacob, Garrett, Sarah Rickman, Catherine, Rebecca Hite and Hellita Van Meter as heirs. (VIRGINIA WILL RECORDS, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1982.)

Colonel George Washington stayed with Henry Van Meter at Indian Old Fields for two days in April 1747/8. Washington's description of the location of the Van Meter farm is very graphic: (MY JOURNEY OVER THE MOUNTAINS, quoted in A GENEALOGY OF THE DUKE SHEPHERD VAN METRE FAMILY.)

Henry Van Metres is on ye branch and was living on "ye Trough," Old Fields. Ye Trough is a couple of ledges of mountains impassable running side by side together for eight miles and ye river down between them, ye must ride round ye back of ye mountain for to get below them.

Henry Van Meter, the son of Isaac, appears to have died in 1778. In his will, dated 16 February 1778 and proved on 12 May 1778, Henry Van Meter of Hampshire County, Virginia, named his wife Rebecca and children Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Abraham and Solomon as legatees. Sons Jacob, Joseph and Abraham were executors. Rebecca Van Meter of Hardy County made her will on 20 January 1802 and it was proved on 12 February 1806. She emancipated two slaves and mentioned five sons without naming them. Isaac and Jacob Van Meter were the executors. (VIRGINIA WILL RECORDS.) Rebecca obviously was the widow of Henry Van Meter of Hampshire County.

Garrett Van Meter, son of Isaac, of Hardy County, Virginia, did not date his will which was proved on 07 July 1788. His legatees were wife Ann, sons Isaac and Jacob, and daughter Anne Seymour who was bequeathed a sum of money which when added to that already given to Abel Seymour would total 600 pounds. Garrett's widow Ann Van Meter of Hampshire County signed her will with her X mark. Dated 12 April 1805 and proved on 12 December 1806, it included her daughter Anne Seymour, her grandchildren, who were the sons and daughters of son John. and granddaughter Ann Sibley. Sons Isaac and Jacob Van Meter and Abel Seymour were appointed as executors. (VIRGINIA WILL RECORDS.)

Berkeley County was formed from Frederick County in 1772. Frederick came from Orange County in 1743.

Hardy County was formed from Hampshire County in 1786. Hampshire was erected from Augusta County in 1754. Augusta was established in 1745 from Orange County. Botetourt County was taken from Augusta County in 1770. Berkeley, Hampshire and Hardy counties later became part of the state of West Virginia and border on Virginia.

Jan Joosten van Meteren, who used the anglicized version of his name, John Van Meter, engaged in extensive trading with the Indians and became very familiar with the western frontier areas where the Van Meters began looking for new land upon which to settle in western Maryland and the Shenandoah region. On 06 June 1730 John Van Meter was assigned 10000 acres and the pre-emption rights to another 20000 acres of land on the Shenandoah River for "himself & eleven children, & also that of divers of his Rela'cons & friends living in the Government of New York." (THE VIRGINIA GERMANS.)

John Van Meter, "descendant of a Holland Dutchman from New York," Jacob Stover (Stauber) from Switzerland and Hans Jost Heydt (Hite) from Alsatia were instrumental in promoting the settlement of the Shenandoah Valley by Germans. Stover and Hite, with their wives and one child each, sailed to England from Rotterdam on 15 July 1709 and to New York in 1710. Hite was married to Anna Maria Du Bois, daughter of a Louis Du Bois, a French Huguenot and a relative of Sarah Du Bois van Meteren whose family migrated earlier from Mannheim and settled at New Paltz in Ulster County, New York. Hite lived with the Du Bois family at New Paltz and he became acquainted with the van Meteren family of Kingston. Hite moved to Kingston by November 1711 and engaged in fur trading. He went to Germantown, Pennsylvania, about 1716 and bought a large tract of land on Perkiomen Creek in Montgomery County where he operated mills and weaving shops in addition to farming. In May 1728 "Yost Hyt" was among "ye Back Inhabitators about Falkner Swamp and New Coshahopin" who appealed to Governor Patrick Gordon of Pennsylvania for protection against Indian encroachments. When the government failed to support the settlers, many began looking for new homes. With the assistance of John Van Meter, Hite soon moved to Virginia. (THE VIRGINIA GERMANS; IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS.)

On 30 June 1730 John Van Meter and his brother Isaac were granted 40000 acres of unappropriated and unsurveyed land in Spotsylvania County and the Northern Neck of Virginia from Governor William Gooch: (MSS., Journal of the Governor and Council of Virginia, Sessions 1721-1734, p. 364, THE VAN METERENS.)

At a council held in the capitol the 17th day of June, 1730. Present. - The Governor, Robert Carter, James Blair, William Byrd, John Robinson, John Cart, Rd. Fitzwilliam, John Grymes, Wm. Dandridge, John Curtis, - Esquires. Several petitions being this day offered to the Board for leave to take up land on the River Sherando on the Northwest side of the Great Mountains, Robert Carter, Esq. Agent for the Proprietors of the Northern Neck moved that it might be entered that he on behalf of the sd Proprietors claimed the land on the sd River Sherando as belonging to the sd Proprietors & within the limits of their Grant it belonged sole to the Proprietors to grant the sd lands wch moven at his request is entered and then the Board proceded to the hearing of the sd Petitions. On reading at this Board the Petition of John Van Metre setting forth that he is desirious to take up a Tract of land in this Colony on the West side of the Great Mountains for the settlement of himself and eleven children and also that divers of his Relations and friends living in the Government of New York are also desirous to move their families and effects and Settle in the same place if a Sufficent Quantity of land may be assigned them for that purpose and praying that ten thousand acres of land lying in the forks of the Sherando River including the places called by the name of Cedar Litch and Stoney Lick and running up between the branches of the said river to complete that quantity and twenty thousand acres not already taken up by Robert Carter and Mann Page, Esqrs., or any other, -lying in the fork between the sd River Sherando and the River Cohonguroota and extending thence to Operkon and up the South Branch thereof may be assigned for the Habitation of himself and family and friends. The Governor, with the advice of his council is pleased to give leave to the sd John Van Metre to take up the sd first mentioned tract of ten thousand acres for the set'lem't of himself and his family, and that as soon as the Petitioner shall bring on the last mentioned Tract twenty families to Inhabit on that this Board is satisfied so many are to remove thither leave be and it is hereby granted him for surveying the last mentioned tract of twenty thousand acres within the limits above described in so many

several dividens as the pet'r and his sd partners shall think fit. And it is furthered ordered that no person is permitted to enter for or take up any part of the afsd Lands in the meantime provided the sd Van Metre and his family and the twenty other families of his Relations and friends do settle thereon within the space of two years according to his proposal.

Isaac Van Meter of the Province of West Jersey having by petition to the Board set forth that he is desirous to settle himself on the West side of the Great Mountains. He has been to view the land in those parts and has discovered a place where settlement may conveniently be made, not possessed by any one of the English Inhabitants and praying that ten thousand acres of land lying between the lands surveyed for Robt. Carter, Esq., and the forks of the Shenando river and the river Operkon in as many several tracts or Dividends as shall be necessary for the accomodation and settlement of ten families (including his own) who proposes to bring to the said land:

The Governor with the advice of the Council is pleased to order as it is hereby ordered that the said Isaac Van Meter for himself and his partners have leave to take up the said quantity of ten thousand acres of land within the limits above described and that if he bring the above number of families to dwell there within two years; Patent be granted him and them for the same in such several tracts or Dividends as they shall think fit and in the meantime the same be referred free from entry of any other person, Dated at Williamsburg, 17th June, 1730.

The 40000 acres of land granted to John and Isaac Van Meter were described as being "on both sides of the Shenandoah" in the subsequent surveys which "embraced forty thousand acres each" and were confirmed to the brothers on 12 May 1732. (THE VAN METERENS, attributed to old files in State Library, Richmond, Virginia, and SHENANDOAH VALLEY PIONEERS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS by Cartwell, p. 13.)

John and Isaac transferred this land to their relative Jost Hite on 05 August 1731, retaining for themselves two large choice tracts of 1786 acres and 885 acres on the west side of the Shenandoah which were patented to them on 03 October 1734, the year that this area became Orange County, Virginia. (THE VAN METERENS.)