

PREFACE

The Van Vuuren Clan are the decendants of Mr. and Mrs. Dirk Van Vuuren.

Grandmother Van Vuuren was a member of the DeJong family so to trace back our ancestry involves these two families.

Roel Van Vuuren the father of grandfather Dirk Van Vuuren was born in 1793.

A historical sketch of Roel Van Vuuren and his family, in the 100th anniversary book of the South Holland Reformed Church, says that he purchased a whole section of land (one square mile or ~~140~~ 640 acres) north of the Calumet river and to this day all titles in that area trace back to his ownership.

A record of the DeJong family goes back as far as Jan DeJong a grandfather of grandmother Van Vuuren born Maartje DeJong.

In this booklet the family is traced from these ancestors to the children of Mr. and Mrs. Dirk Van Vuuren; with the dates of their birth and death and whom they married.

It would be an endless job to trace all the way down to all the present decendants and quite a few would be missed.

Therefore a few blank pages are left in the back of the book so that each individual family can enter the record of their family from here on.



ROEL VANVUUREN

Roel VanVuuren (1793-1859) with his wife, Grietje Baardwijck (1800), set out from Uithuistermeede in 1848 and arrived in Low Prairie the same year after an ocean voyage of six weeks. According to one of the descendants, Van Vuuren had been instrumental in persuading the Rev. W. C. Wust to migrate to what was then, in the old country, considered the Indian Wilds of America. As these pioneer families later learned, there was at that time not much of Indian life left in the Calumet area.

Here Van Vuuren purchased a section of land just north of the river. A log cabin situated somewhere between the present Arie T. Gouwens and Van Oostenbrugge homes, served as the family's first Low Prairie dwelling. Some of the logs of this cabin were later used in the construction of the Arie T. Gouwens barn. The titles of properties in this area go back as far as Roel Van Vuuren ownership. Roel Van Vuuren figured immediately in the activities of the church, but his services were not of many years duration for he died in 1859, two years after the first cemetery had been purchased. The graves of Mr. Van Vuuren and his wife are marked by horizontal flat slabs, that have been fairly well preserved. This couple most likely were among the first adults buried in the then new cemetery west of Thornton.

The VanVuuren family was a rather large one. The sons and daughters intermarried with members of the local families of a decade later.

Accordingly many of the folks of the First Reformed Church of South Holland are descendants of these pioneers.

Teuntje VanVuuren married Jan de Jong. Anna married Arie de Jong. Gerrigje married Arie Gouwens. Mageltje married Cornelis de Jong (later of Michigan.) Jansje married Arie T. Gouwens. Neeltje married Gouw Zwijnenberg. Lammert married Aaltje de Vries. Dirk married Maartje de Jong of High Prairie.

The foregoing sketch of Roel VanVuuren and his family was copied from the 100 year anniversary book of the First Reformed Church of South Holland, Ill.



DIRK VAN VUUREN

Dirk Van Vuuren, son of Roel and Grietje VanVuuren was born in the Province of South Holland, Netherlands, on September 12, 1834. He migrated with his parents to a farm in what is now South Holland, Illinois but was then called Low Prairie. He married Maartje DeJong. She was the daughter of Jacob DeJong one of the first settlers, and also the first elder of the First Reformed Church in Roseland, Chicago, Illinois. The VanVuurens built their home at 100th Place and Michigan Avenue in Roseland, Chicago, Illinois.

During the construction of this home the window and door frames were delivered on the day of the great Chicago fire, October 9, 1871.

Dirk Van Vuuren died on February 21, 1906 at the age of 71 years and is buried in the family lot in Mount Greenwood Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois.

OUR FAMILY

Father Jacob DeJong lost his father by death when he was not quite five years old. His name was Jan DeJong.

Father's mother's name was Maartje ? Mother Geertje DeJong was born Eenigenburg. Her father's name was Joris Hark Eenigenburg; born on January 25, 1778 in Holland, Nederland; died August 8, 1842 at the age of 64 years. Grandmother Triezntze Gerrits Eenigenburg was born in the year 1779, date unknown; died on January 5, 1842 at the age of 63 years.

Father Jacob DeJong was born Oct. 11, 1808 in Holland, Nederland, in a place called Schoorl. He died in Roseland on March 27, 1875 at the age of 66 years, 5 months and 16 days.

Mother Geertje DeJong was born on July 17 1810 in Holland, Nederland; and died in Roseland, Chicago at the age of 68 years on October 3, 1896.

Our elders migrated from Nederland to America in the year 1849 on a sailing ship over the big Ocean. The trip took 42 days. It was very stormy and with an epidemic of cholera on board 32 passengers died. They landed in New York and went immediately by steamboat and canal boat to Detroit; then by steam boat to Chicago where they landed on State Street on July 4, 1849. They traveled then 14 miles south and bought land for five dollars an acre. The place was then called Hooge Prairie. (High Prairie) It was all wild land.

To our elders were born sixteen children as follows:-

Tryntje
Genvist
E.

FAMILY OF JACOB DE JONG

	Born	Died
Maartje	Aug. 25, 1835	
Jan	Aug. 28, 1836	
Joris	October 8, 1837	Jan. 9, 1845
Gerrit	March 14, 1839	
Tryntje	April 9, 1840	Aug. 24, 1840
Tryntje	April 25, 1841	Feb. 2, 1842
Dirk	Jan. 23, 1843	
Hark	April 21, 1844	
Tryntje	Nov. 23, 1845	May 20, 1849
Joris	April - 1847	May 9, 1849
Giluitje	May 19, 1848	May 8, 1849
Joris	Aug. 10, 1849	
Tryntje	May 1, 1851	July 18, 1851
Pieter	Jan. 25, 1853	July 29, 1853
Tryntje	Jan. 25, 1853	Apr 6, 1853
Tryntje	Feb. 11, 1855	Aug 2, 1855

The foregoing "OUR FAMILY" is an English translation of a document written in the Holland language by one of the children of Jacob DeJong

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MAARTJE DEJONG

Maartje DeJong was born in the Netherlands on August 25, 1835, the eldest child of Jacob and Geertje (nee Eenigenburg) DeJong.

Maartje married Dirk VanVuuren and lived in Roseland from 1849 until she died on August 1, 1911. She is buried in the VanVuuren family lot in the Mount Greenwood Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois.

THE CHILDREN OF
MR. AND MRS. DIRK VANVUUREN

Grietje was born on January 26, 1856. Grietje married John Nomes. Grietje died on April 26, 1911, and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Alsip, Illinois.

Geertje was born on January 25, 1860. Geertje married Paul Tams. Geertje died on January 14, 1944, and is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois.

Roel was born on May 30, 1862. Roel married Katie Heun. Roel died on January 10, 1945, in Clinton, Iowa, and is buried in the cemetery in Fulton, Illinois.

Trientje was born on February 28, 1865. Trientje married Albert Hine. After the death of Albert Hine she married Myndert Knynsberg. Trientje died on November 7, 1949, and is buried in the Oak Glen Cemetery in Lansing, Illinois.

Maggeltje was born on April 13, 1867. Maggeltje married Peter DeVos. Maggeltje died on September 14, 1951, and is buried in Mount Greenwood Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois.

Guurtje was born on August 8, 1869. Guurtje married John Van Erden. Guurtje died on December 24, 1927, and is buried in Mount Greenwood Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois.

Anna was born on May 2, 1871. Anna married Richard DeKock. Anna died on November 18, 1900, and is buried beside her parents in the Van Vuuren family lot in Mount Greenwood Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois.

Jakob died in infancy.

Jacob was born on August 11, 1874. Jacob married Kate DeKock. Jacob lives in Lansing, Illinois.

Roel VanVuuren died in Fulton, Illinois.

Mary DeVos,
The oldest daughter of
Maggeltje VanVuuren and
Peter DeVos married
Jacob Vanderhilt.

The younger daughter of
Mary and Jacob Vanderhilt,
Beela Vanderhilt, married
Toivo Ulvila. Their
three sons are:

JACOB WALTER
EDWIN ARTHUR
MICHAEL JOHN

Your
great-
grand
parents