

## *Descendants of Willem Van Regenmorter* Five Generations

### *Generation No. 1*

1. WILLEM<sup>1</sup> VAN REGENMORTER was born Abt. 1680 in Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland ?. He married KRIJNTJE JANS DR JOOS 10 November 1710 in Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland. She was born Abt. 1684 in Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland ?.

Child of WILLEM VAN REGENMORTER and KRIJNTJE JOOS is:

2. i. PIETER<sup>2</sup> VAN REGENMORTER, b. 23 July 1713, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland.

### *Generation No. 2*

2. PIETER<sup>2</sup> VAN REGENMORTER (*WILLEM<sup>1</sup>*) was born 23 July 1713 in Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland. He married NEELTJE DERKSDR WITTE 05 July 1744 in Goedereede, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>1</sup>, daughter of DERK WITTE and LIJNTJE VAN WAAGE. She was born 27 January 1719/20 in Goedereede, Zuid-Holland, Nederland.

Child of PIETER VAN REGENMORTER and NEELTJE WITTE is:

3. i. WILLEM<sup>3</sup> VAN REGENMORTER, b. 17 December 1752, Goedereede, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 23 September 1815, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland.

### *Generation No. 3*

3. WILLEM<sup>3</sup> VAN REGENMORTER (*PIETER<sup>2</sup>, WILLEM<sup>1</sup>*) was born 17 December 1752 in Goedereede, Zuid-Holland, Nederland, and died 23 September 1815 in Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland. He married ARENTJE VAN OOSTVOOREN 28 March 1784 in Sommiltdijk, Zuid-Holland, Nederland, daughter of MELGER VAN OOSTVOOREN and AGENIETJE MUIJEN. She was born 14 February 1762 in Sommiltdijk, Zuid-Holland, Nederland, and died 02 February 1841 in Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland.

Children of WILLEM VAN REGENMORTER and ARENTJE VAN OOSTVOOREN are:

1. i. NEELTJE<sup>4</sup> VAN REGENMORTER, b. 15 October 1786, Goedereede, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; m. ARIE VAN DER HOVEN, 05 May 1815, Goedereede, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>2</sup>.
4. ii. MELGERT (MELCHER) VAN REGENMORTER, b. 1788, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland.
5. iii. ANGENIETJE VAN REGENMORTER, b. 30 March 1795, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 25 April 1882, Zeeland, Ottawa County, Michigan.
6. iv. PIETER VAN REGENMORTER, b. 05 September 1797, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 13 April 1872, Drenthe, Ottawa County, Michigan.
- v. JOHANNES VAN REGENMORTER, b. Aft. 1797, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>3</sup>.

### *Generation No. 4*

4. MELGERT (MELCHER)<sup>4</sup> VAN REGENMORTER (*WILLEM<sup>3</sup>, PIETER<sup>2</sup>, WILLEM<sup>1</sup>*) was born 1788 in Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>3</sup>. He married SIJGIE BAAN<sup>4</sup> Bef. 1820<sup>4</sup>. She was born Abt. 1800.

Children of MELGERT VAN REGENMORTER and SIJGIE BAAN are:

- i. WILLEM<sup>5</sup> VAN REGENMORTER<sup>4</sup>, b. 05 September 1820, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 16 April 1879, Jamestown, Ottawa County, Michigan; m. (1) AAGJE GRINWIS, 06 August 1845, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>5</sup>; b. Abt. 1824, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>6</sup>; d. Abt. 1847; m. (2) GEERTJE DUNNINK<sup>7</sup>, 1851, Ottawa County, Michigan<sup>8</sup>; b. 10 August 1834, Staphorst, Overijssel, Nederland.
- ii. ARIE VAN REGENMORTER<sup>9</sup>, b. 07 August 1822, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland.

5. ANGENIETJE<sup>4</sup> VAN REGENMORTER (*WILLEM<sup>3</sup>, PIETER<sup>2</sup>, WILLEM<sup>1</sup>*) was born 30 March 1795 in Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>10</sup>, and died 25 April 1882 in Zeeland, Ottawa County, Michigan. She married (1) DERK PAULUS BROEKMAN 18 April 1818 in Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland, son of PAULUS BROEKMAN and KLAARTJE TANIS. He was born 07 September 1796 in Oude Nieuweland, Nederland, and died 14 December 1864 in Drenthe, Ottawa County, Michigan. She married (2) MATTHIUS HUIBERTUS 26 February 1868.

Notes for ANGENIETJE VAN REGENMORTER:

Angenietje VanRegenmorter Broekman, who remarried to Zeeland farmer Matthius Huibertus February 26, 1868, survived both husbands and most of her children. She died at 87 and was buried in the Presbyterian cemetery with daughters Lena, Jannetje and Jacomijntje, all tuberculosis victims. Now called "Old Drenthe", this cemetery has no formal entrance, nor does data on gravestones installed years later correspond with Ouddorp or Ottawa County records.

Notes for DERK PAULUS BROEKMAN:

Derk his wife and seven daughters emigrated April, 1847 on board the Hugo Grotenhuis which left Rotterdam, Nederland. While awaiting passage in Rotterdam, Derk and Angenietje Broekman appeared before a public notary on April 12th to give their written consent for daughter Klaartje's marriage to Cornelis Ackershoeck, and she remained in Ouddorp another two years.

The family settled in Drenthe, Ottawa county, Michigan July 1947. Derk Broekman is largely considered one of the founders of Ottawa County. He purchased 240 acres in Drenthe (Section 27, T5N, R14W) for \$1.25 per acre. The north section bordered on Perry Street and the east on 64th Street. Tax assessors arrived in the early spring of 1848 and Derk Broekman paid an initial tax on his land of \$5.52.

Derk Broekman became the 23rd member of the Vriesland Dutch Reformed Church in July 1847 and formal services began in the open air a month later.

According to his death certificate, he was buried on his own land. Presbyterians had no cemetery and he was buried on with other family members. The present (1975) owners of the farm have no knowledge of any gravesites, so the graves must be unmarked. Also 2 daughters died before him and at least one (Neeltje d.1850's) may be buried here too. Mrs. Broekman and several daughters are buried at the Old Drenthe Scottish Presbyterian cemetery. (From the Catts-Bouma & Grinwis Family history).

Another family history claims all three (Derk, Angenitje & 2nd husband Matthius Huibertus ? Van Regenmorter) are all buried in Old Drenthe cemetery, Zeeland Twp. Sec. 34, however only Angenitje has a stone so this seems unlikely, also, 2nd husbands are almost always buried with their first wife.

After the Civil war, Broekman son-in-law Gerrit Hunderman gave the Presbyterian Church a parcel of ground but threatened to rescind that offer until the church board on August 12, 1867 resolved to bury only Presbyterians there.

[Source: Genealogies of the Family Grinwis, Herrick Public Library, 300 South River Avenue, Holland, Michigan USA 49423. Text provided via email from Laurie Tanis, edited by Wendy Van Hegewald.]

More About DERK PAULUS BROEKMAN:

Burial: 14 December 1864, Sec. 27, T5N, R14W, Drenthe, Ottawa co. MI  
Immigration: 1847, Ship name: Hugo Grotenhuis

More About MATTHIUS HUIBERTUS:

Occupation: Farmer

Children of ANGENIETJE VAN REGENMORTER and DERK BROEKMAN are:

- i. KLAARTJE<sup>5</sup> BROEKMAN, b. 18 October 1818, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 1851, Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan; m. CORNELIS AKERSHOEK, 26 May 1847, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; b. 1825, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 1917, Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan.

Notes for KLAARTJE BROEKMAN:

While awaiting passage in Rotterdam, Derk and Angenietje Broekman appeared before a public notary on April 12th to give their written consent for daughter Klaartje's marriage to Cornelis Ackershoek, and she remained in Ouddorp another two years.

In 1849, Klaartje, Cornelis, and son Paul, emigrated to the United States. She died within a few years of arrival.

- ii. ARAANTJE (IDA) BROEKMAN, b. 11 October 1819, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>11</sup>; d. 07 August 1883, Zeeland, Ottawa County, Michigan<sup>11</sup>; m. JAN EEUWIT TANIS<sup>12</sup>, September 1848, Vriesland Parsonage, Ottawa County, Michigan; b. 05 September 1823, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 06 September 1890, Zeeland, Ottawa County, Michigan.

More About ARAANTJE (IDA) BROEKMAN:

Burial: New Vriesland cem, sec 15<sup>13</sup>

Cause of Death: Tuberculosis

Notes for JAN EEUWIT TANIS:

Jan Eeuwit Tanis came to the USA between April 12th - June 26, 1847 along with Derk Broekman and his 7 daughters. They traveled on board the Hugo Grotenhuis, along with 40 other Flakkenaars from Goedereede, Island, South Holland Province, their hometown. The ship left Rotterdam and traveled to New York. From New York, they continued up the Hudson river by ferry steamer to Albany where a Reformed minister provided information on the mid-west colonies. Then to Buffalo either by rail or Erie barge and finally a Great Lakes ferry through the Mackinaw straits on to Black Lake, Macatawa, Michigan. They arrived in July 1847.

In the Broekman history, it was said that Jan told his cousin Derk "If Derk Broekman could make a living in America then Jan Tanis would go along and marry Araantje Broekman". Indeed he did just that as they were married at the Vriesland parsonage in 1848 along with 5 other couples. They were the first to be married in the new parsonage.

As a wedding gift, Derk gave the newlyweds 40 acres, on 64th & Perry streets in the Zeeland Township.

[Source: Genealogies of the Family Grinwis, Herrick Public Library, 300 South River Avenue, Holland, Michigan USA 49423. Text provided via email from Laurie Tanis.]

More About JAN EEUWIT TANIS:

Burial: 06 September 1890, New Vriesland, Sec. 15<sup>13</sup>

Cause of Death: Asthma

Emigration: Bet. April - 01 July 1847, Hugo Grotenhuis ship

Property: Bet. 1847 - 1890, 40 acres, Perry & 64th St, Drenthe, Michigan

- iii. LENA DERKS BROEKMAN, b. 18 October 1823, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 18 January 1874, Zeeland, Ottawa County, Michigan; m. MAARTEN THOMAS GRINWIS, 18 March 1847, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; b. 20 August 1818, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 07 May 1902, Zeeland, Ottawa County, Michigan.

More About LENA DERKS BROEKMAN:

Burial: West Drenthe Cemetery, sec. 28

Cause of Death: Tuberculosis

Notes for MAARTEN THOMAS GRINWIS:

Marten and Lena Grinwis left Ouddorp in April 1847 with her family and those of her Uncles, Pieter and Melgert VanRegenmorter; the latter including Aagje Grinwis and husband Willem Van Regenmorter.

The Ouddorp men claimed Section 27, where Derk Broekman purchased 240 acres, E ½ of NW ¼ and the entire NE ¼, parceling out 115 acres to Ouddorp and Friesian neighbors during the next three years. Maarten

Grinwis bought an adjoining eighty acres, E ½ of SE ¼, for \$1.25 per acre. The southeast corner of the Grinwis land eventually became the main intersection of Drenthe village, with which these families were generally associated, but their initial alliance was with their Friesian neighbors on the north.

Many died that first year, a total of 27 in the Friesian/Flakken settlement including three entire families. Lena Grinwis awaited her first child and the daughter born in January 1848 was named for Aagje Grinwis VanRegenmorter, a casualty of the early months.

Tax assessors arrived in the early spring of 1848 and Maarten Grinwis paid an initial tax of \$1.74 on his land. Also that spring a township clerk came to prepare citizenship applications for some 300 new settlers in the southern end of the county, only six of whom were unable to read or write. More arrived that summer and were given shelter in existing homes while establishing their own. One family lodged in Drenthe's church and had to move every Sunday. Both Maarten Grinwis and Derk Broekman became charter members of the Drenthe Dutch Reformed Church when that building was completed in March 1848, a half mile east of the Grinwis land. Serving as a school and social center, its elders served as the town council. This church generated enough controversy to provide material for a book in 1949 and reports challenging that in later years.

Briefly affiliated with Vriesland, Drenthe had no resident dominie until 1851 when Reverend Roelof Smit arrived to settle among the Staphorst families. In 1853, two-thirds of Drenthe's membership accompanied him to an Associated Reformed Church, which he subsequently affiliated with the United Presbyterian Church. Three Grinwis children were baptized there; the others at Vriesland where their mother's membership was registered in February 1850.

By 1860, Maarten and Lena Grinwis had lost a daughter and the Broekman's were caring for two grandchildren whose mothers had died.

Lena later died of tuberculosis as well as her mother and two sisters. On February 9, 1882 Maarten Grinwis remarried to Geisje Hunderman Stokking (1814-1894), a neighborhood widow who had no children, and the remaining Grinwis youngsters moved to homes of older brothers or sisters. The farm was sold and Maarten Grinwis moved to Zeeland where he and Geisje maintained a small garden and two "milch" cows. After her death, he lived with children at Gitchel in Jamestown township where he died of cardiac failure in his 84th year and was buried in the Presbyterian cemetery with Lena.

A Broekman descendant presently owns the old Grinwis farm, and the well Maarten installed, perhaps 130 years ago, still functions. For years it provided all the water for a creamery on the next farm east. The blackened trunks of two old pear trees are there as well, now more than a century old, and one bears a green branch.

Source Location: Herrick Public Library, 300 South River Avenue, Holland, Michigan USA 49423  
Genealogies of the Family Grinwis; there are two, one is about 40 pages in a soft-cover binder and the other is several hundred pages in a 1 ½" binder. This is the complete history up to where the lineage begins. Text provided by Laurie Tanis, edited by Wendy Van Hegewald.

More About MAARTEN THOMAS GRINWIS:

Burial: West Drenthe Cemetery, sec. 28

Immigration: 1847, Ship name: Hugo Grotenhuis

- iv. STILLBORN BROEKMAN, b. 27 September 1825.
- v. ADRIAANTJE BROEKMAN, b. 18 February 1828, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 16 September 1877, Zeeland, Ottawa County, Michigan; m. GERRIT HUNDERMAN, 16 November 1851, Drenthe, Ottawa county, Michigan; b. 1820, Oosterhesslen, Nederland; d. 1909.

More About ADRIAANTJE BROEKMAN:

Burial: East Drenthe cemetery, Ottawa County, Michigan

More About GERRIT HUNDERMAN:

Burial: East Drenthe cemetery, section 35, Ottawa County, Michigan

- vi. NEELTJE BROEKMAN, b. 03 November 1830, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. Aft. 1852, Drenthe, Ottawa County, Michigan; m. JACOB CORNELIUS CATS, 1850, Drenthe, Ottawa County, Michigan; b. 1824, Nederland; d. 1904, Drenthe, Ottawa County, Michigan.

More About JACOB CORNELIUS CATS:

Occupation: 1892, Farmer

Residence: 1892, Zeeland township, Section 8, Ottawa County, Michigan

- vii. JANNETJE BROEKMAN, b. 19 February 1833, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 15 May 1874, Zeeland, Ottawa County, Michigan; m. MARTINUS JOPPE, 26 May 1852, Drenthe, Michigan Ottawa county; b. 04 October 1821, Nederland; d. 02 July 1904, Zeeland, Ottawa County, Michigan.

More About JANNETJE BROEKMAN:

Burial: Old Drenthe cemetery, Zeeland Township, Ottawa County, Michigan

Cause of Death: Tuberculosis

More About MARTINUS JOPPE:

Burial: Old Drenthe cemetery, Zeeland Township, Ottawa County, Michigan

- viii. MAARTJE BROEKMAN, b. 21 January 1835, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 1911; m. ROELOF VAN DAM, 23 March 1856, Drenthe, Michigan Ottawa county; b. 1830, Nederland; d. 1912.

More About MAARTJE BROEKMAN:

Burial: East Drenthe cemetery, Ottawa County, Michigan

More About ROELOF VAN DAM:

Burial: East Drenthe cemetery, Ottawa County, Michigan

- ix. JACOMIENTJE BROEKMAN, b. 07 October 1838, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland; d. 17 August 1872, Zeeland, Ottawa County, Michigan; m. JAN HUNDERMAN, 15 February 1857, Drenthe, Michigan Ottawa county; b. 25 April 1832; d. 30 October 1905.

More About JACOMIENTJE BROEKMAN:

Burial: Old Drenthe cemetery, Zeeland Township, Ottawa County, Michigan

Cause of Death: Tuberculosis

More About JAN HUNDERMAN:

Burial: Old Drenthe cemetery, Zeeland Township, Ottawa County, Michigan

6. PIETER<sup>4</sup> VAN REGENMORTER (*WILLEM*<sup>3</sup>, *PIETER*<sup>2</sup>, *WILLEM*<sup>1</sup>) was born 05 September 1797 in Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>14,15</sup>, and died 13 April 1872 in Drenthe, Ottawa County, Michigan. He married MARIA VANDER WIELE 20 December 1830<sup>15</sup>, daughter of SIMON VANDER WIELE and LAURINA FJOKE. She was born 1798 in Driesschon, Zeeland, Nederland<sup>16,17</sup>, and died Abt. 1880 in Drenthe, Ottawa County, Michigan.

Notes for PIETER VAN REGENMORTER:

Pieter Van Regenmorter left Ouddorp, Overijssel, Nederland in April 1847 with brother Melgert Van Regenmorter and Melgert's son and daughter in law, Willem Van Regenmorter and Aagje (Grinwis) Van Regenmorter. Accompanying them were Marten and Lena Grinwis, Jan Richel, Herman Roon and Stoffel Keslander families, as well as unmarried Cornelis VanderStadt, a young VanderWiele and Jan Euwits Tanis (cousin to Derk Broekman--husband of Angenietje Van Regenmorter), who later married Arentje Broekman in the first ceremony at the Vriesland parsonage in 1848.

Steerage space aboard the sailing vessels of that time averaged 400 guilders (about \$160) for a family of ten, each providing their own food, water and stove. On ships crowded far beyond legal capacity, passengers were confined to dark and poorly ventilated quarters throughout a voyage that could stretch from six weeks to twelve when prevailing winds were unfavorable. To date, no passenger list has been found for the Hugo Grotenhuis ship, on which the Flakkenaars (South Hollanders) arrived in New York. From there it was customary to continue up the Hudson River by steam ferry to Albany where a Reformed minister provided information on the Dutch colonies being established in the Midwest. The journey to Buffalo was either by rail or Erie barge canal

and the final leg on a Great Lakes ferry through the Mackinaw Straits that brought them to Black Lake (Macatawaa) early in July, about the same time as a group arriving from Friesland. The first band of Zeelanders arrived June 26, a Drenthe group on June 20, and the Jan Hulst family from Straphorst, Overijssel reached the cedar swamp on June 8 after a 42 day wagon trip from Baltimore. These were the first settlers of what was then Ottawa, later Holland and eventually Zeeland Township, Ottawa county, where each claimed a specific area and agreed not to infringe on the territorial boundaries of the other.

Pieter Van Regenmorter initially purchased 150 acres in Holland, Michigan, for \$1.25 per acre. The first shelters were merely branch-covered dugouts in which some Friesians struggled through the winter. Douwe Bouma (whose son would marry a Grinwis daughter) described the shelters as six-by-twelve foot trenches covered with saplings and earth to a height of six feet. Clearing the land was a lengthy process where trees more than a hundred feet tall sometimes measured six feet in diameter, many so closely grown that the pioneer had little room to swing an axe. The Ouddorp men had imported some lumber, an enviable advantage in the woods, but exposure and exhaustion, impure water and meager diet were hazards shared by all. Many died that first year, a total of 27 in the Friesian/Flakken settlement including three entire families.

Log cabins of one room and a window were the average, some having a slate roof or a log fireplace plastered with clay. A wooden chest served as clothes press, pantry and table; sawn-off tree stumps as chairs; the monotonous fare of dried beans and meal occasionally bolstered by a little venison. Even with that, the fat had to be processed for candles. Bear, wolves and other wild creatures ran free, as did the occasional Indian, armed for the hunt with tomahawk, harpoon and bowie knife. Whenever the pioneer encountered the native on the trail, it was the Dutchman who stepped discreetly aside so that each might pursue his mission undisturbed.

[Source: Genealogies of the Family Grinwis, Herrick Public Library, 300 South River Avenue, Holland, Michigan USA 49423. Text provided by Laurie Tanis, edited by Wendy Van Hegewald.]

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After the first church was established in Vriesland, Pieter and Mary had at least five of their children baptized there: Willem, Simon, Melgert, Johannes and Jakob. [Source: "Baptismal records of the Hollandsche Gereformeerde Kerk (Dutch Reformed Church), Vriesland, Ottawa County, Michigan, 1848 - 1875", copied by Ralph Haan, [www.macatawa.org/~devries/baptism.html](http://www.macatawa.org/~devries/baptism.html)].

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The Census information reveals slightly more about the Pieter Van Regenmorter family. During the 1850 census, Pieter and Maria had six children living with them (Laurina, 17, Willem, 15, Simon, 13, Algoren, 12, Johann, 10, and Jacob, 7) .

Dwelling Number in Census: 222  
Family Number in Census: 2221

By the 1860 census, Pieter and Maria had four children remaining (William, 25, Simon, 23, Johan, 20, and Jacob, 17).

[Source: 1850 census information found: [http://c-23.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/archives/mi/ottawa/holland/census/c52203 .txt](http://c-23.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/archives/mi/ottawa/holland/census/c52203.txt)]

More About PIETER VAN REGENMORTER:  
Census: 1850, Federal Census, MIS7a5498595  
Immigration: 1847, Ship name: Hugo Grotenhuis  
Occupation: Farmer, 150 Acres<sup>18</sup>  
Residence: Holland Township, Michigan

More About MARIA VANDER WIELE:  
Immigration: 1847, Ship name: Hugo Grotenhuis  
Residence: Holland Township, Michigan

Children of PIETER VAN REGENMORTER and MARIA VANDER WIELE are:

- i. ARENTJE<sup>5</sup> VAN REGENMORTER, b. 23 September 1831, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>19,20</sup>.
- ii. LAURINA VAN REGENMORTER, b. 26 January 1833, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>21,22</sup>; d. 1897, Zeeland, Ottawa, Michigan; m. CORNELIS DE NYS; b. Abt. 1833.
- iii. WILLEM VAN REGENMORTER, b. 17 February 1835, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>23,24</sup>; d. 16 April 1879<sup>25</sup>; m. GERRITDINA (GERTRUDE) MEYAARD, 04 January 1874, Allegan County, Michigan; b. 14 March 1854, Kalamazoo, Michigan<sup>25</sup>; d. 16 April 1937, Zeeland, Ottawa County, Michigan<sup>26,27,28</sup>.

Notes for WILLEM VAN REGENMORTER:

In the 1860 census, he was listed as living in the same residence as his parents and declared his occupation as farm laborer.

Willem's brother, John, married Gertrude's second cousin, Lena Vredeveld.

More About WILLEM VAN REGENMORTER:

Baptism: Hollandsche Gereformeerde Church, Vriesland, Ottawa County, Michigan

Burial: Drenthe Cemetery, Michigan<sup>29</sup>

Cause of Death: Fever

Immigration: 1847, Ship name: Hugo Grotenhuis

Occupation: Store owner, Jamestown Township, Ottawa County, Michigan

More About GERRITDINA (GERTRUDE) MEYAARD:

Burial: Zutphen Cemetery, Jamestown Township, Michigan<sup>29</sup>

Cause of Death: Stroke

- iv. SIMON VAN REGENMORTER, b. 24 October 1836, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>30</sup>; d. 21 September 1903.

Notes for SIMON VAN REGENMORTER:

Never married.

More About SIMON VAN REGENMORTER:

Baptism: Hollandsche Gereformeerde Church, Vriesland, Ottawa County, Michigan

Immigration: 1847, Ship name: Hugo Grotenhuis

- v. ALORGENS VAN REGENMORTER, b. 1838<sup>30</sup>.
- vi. MELGERT MELVIN VAN REGENMORTER<sup>31,32</sup>, b. 29 April 1838, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>33,34</sup>; d. 17 August 1923, Holland, Ottawa County, Michigan; m. JOHANNA HARTGERINK<sup>35</sup>; b. Abt. 1850, Ottawa County, Michigan<sup>36</sup>.

Notes for MELGERT MELVIN VAN REGENMORTER:

Melgert was the first light house keeper at Holland, Michigan. This light house on the south pier was built in 1872 and consisted of a small wooden structure with an oil lamp. With the installation of a catwalk from the shore to the light in 1874, Melgert was able to make his way from shore to the pier.

One stormy night, a ship was in distress--unable to find safe entrance into the harbor. To light the harbor, Melgert risked his life to cross the unstable catwalks to access the lighthouse. After several attempts, he was able to light the gas lamp. His efforts saved the ship and its passengers from drowning in the storm. This story is told in the Holland Michigan Museum and the gaslight is on display.

[Sources: Richard Van Regenmorter and "Seeing the Light: Holland Harbor Lighthouse History", <http://www.terrypepper.com/lights/michigan/holland/holland.htm>]

On 21 August 1907, Melgert attended the 60th anniversary of Zeeland, Michigan settlement. At the reunion, he listed his residence as Holland, Michigan. [Source: Luann de Vries]

More About MELGERT MELVIN VAN REGENMORTER:

Baptism: Hollandsche Gereformeerde Church, Vriesland, Ottawa County, Michigan

Burial: Pilgrim Home Cemetery, Holland, Ottawa Michigan

Immigration: 1847, Ship name: Hugo Grotenhuis

Military: Started as Private, Discharged as Corporal

Military service: Fought in U.S. Civil War, Company I-25 Michigan Infantry for the Grand Army of the Republic<sup>37,38</sup>

Occupation: 1892, Light house keeper<sup>39</sup>

Residence: 1892, Holland Township, section 22, Ottawa County, Michigan<sup>39</sup>

- vii. JOHANNES (JOHN) VAN REGENMORTER, b. 11 December 1839, Ouddorp, Zuid Holland, Nederland<sup>40,41,42</sup>; d. 1909, Allegan, Michigan; m. LENA VREDEVELD, 02 April 1871, Overisel, Allegan, Michigan<sup>43</sup>; b. 10 March 1853, Overisel, Allegan, Michigan<sup>44</sup>; d. 15 April 1907<sup>44</sup>.

Notes for JOHANNES (JOHN) VAN REGENMORTER:

Interesting note: John's brother, Willem, married Lena's second cousin, Gertude Meyaard.

Proud of his heritage, John attended the 60th anniversary of settling Zeeland, Michigan, 21 August 1907. At the time of the reunion, John listed his residence as Grand Rapids.

[Source: Luann de Vries, [www.macatawa.org/~devries/zeeimm.htm](http://www.macatawa.org/~devries/zeeimm.htm)]

More About JOHANNES (JOHN) VAN REGENMORTER:

Baptism: Hollandsche Gereformeerde Church, Vriesland, Ottawa County, Michigan

Burial: Greenwood Cemetery, Walker Township, Kent County, Michigan

Occupation: 1900, Machinist<sup>45</sup>

More About LENA VREDEVELD:

Burial: Greenwood Cemetery, Walker Township, Kent County, Michigan

- viii. NEELTJE VAN REGENMORTER, b. 26 October 1840, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>46</sup>; d. 22 September 1841, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland.
- ix. NEELTJE VAN REGENMORTER, b. 17 April 1842, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>46,47</sup>.
- x. JAKOB (JACOB) VAN REGENMORTER<sup>48</sup>, b. 1843, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Nederland<sup>49,50</sup>; d. Bef. 1894, Holland, Ottawa County, Michigan; m. JANTJEN (JANE) DOREN; b. 20 August 1860, Assen, Drenthe, Nederland<sup>51</sup>; d. 03 January 1948<sup>52</sup>.

Notes for JAKOB (JACOB) VAN REGENMORTER:

Jacob Van Regenmorter was a factory worker who died at work. He was distracted by a switch engine and failed to see a flyer coming down the second set of tracks. He was killed instantly. He left a widow and five children with no benefits or government assistance.

[Source: Richard Van Regenmorter, grandson of Jacob Van Regenmorter]

More About JAKOB (JACOB) VAN REGENMORTER:

Baptism: Hollandsche Gereformeerde Church, Vriesland, Ottawa County, Michigan

Immigration: 1847, Ship name: Hugo Grotenhuis

Notes for JANTJEN (JANE) DOREN:

Jantje (Jane) Doren's first husband, Jacob, was killed at work. At the time of his death, there were no death benefit programs for the family and so Jane could not support the family herself. She removed all children from school and helped them find work. Her son, Peter, left school in the fourth grade and helped support the family by milking and herding cows.

Even though the family was virtually penniless, Jane was too proud to allow her children accept charity. For example, she refused to allow them to partake in soup kitchens set up for laid-off factory workers.

Jane immediately married Pieter Elhart, possibly more for financial support than love. He brought three children to the marriage and they produced 2 additional children, raising 10 children in their small home.

After Pieter died, Jane lived with her daughter, Mary, in the late 19teens or possibly 1920.

[Sources: Richard Van Regenmorter and Henrietta Van Wyhe, Jane's grandchildren.]

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