

## News from Nan

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE, GENEALOGY, FAMILY HISTORY

# BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE: JANSJE BARENDSEN (ANNA'S GREAT-GRANDMOTHER, NOVEMBER 12) (AI ENHANCED)

NOVEMBER 10, 2025 | ANNA

*This post merges content written by me and published in this space in 2018 with recently produced context provided by AI Assistant Perplexity.*

One of my paternal great-grandmothers, Jansje Barendsen, was born in Elburg, Gelderland, Netherlands, on November 12, 1820. So that would make two days from now the 205th anniversary of her birth!



*Jansje's birthplace: Elburg, Gelderland, Netherlands*

I wrote a post about her a few years ago, and I was hoping that by this time some new genealogical records might have been uncovered that would tell me more about her. Unfortunately that was not the case, but my AI assistant, Perplexity, has come to the rescue with some bits of information about her name and the place where she was born.

## Jansje's given name

I knew that Jansje was a diminutive (as Perplexity called it, a "charming Dutch diminutive"), but for what?

Perplexity told me that the name is derived from "Johanna," which was a pleasant surprise, because I already have a number of "Johannas" in my paternal line, including my stepmother.

## Jansje's surname

Barendsen is Dutch in origin and is a patronymic, meaning "son (or descendant) of Barend." Interesting that some of Jansje's Dutch records write it "Barends" and some "Barendsen."

| Jansje Barends  |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| in the Netherlands, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564-1910 |                                 |
| Name:   | Jansje Barends                  |
| Gender:   | Female                          |
| Birth Date:   | 12 nov 1820                     |
| Birth Place:  | Elburg, Gelderland, Netherlands |
| Baptism Date:   | 13 nov 1820                     |
| Father:   | <a href="#">Barend Barends</a>  |
| Mother:   | <a href="#">Maria Wijnbeld</a>  |
| FHL Film Number:  | 358640                          |
| <b>Suggested I</b>  |                                 |
| <a href="#">Netherlands, Burials, 1668-1944</a>           | Jansje Barends                  |
| <a href="#">Netherlands, 1795-1950</a>                    | Jansje Barends                  |
| <a href="#">Netherlands, 1795-1950</a>                    | Jansje Barends                  |

This is Jansje's birth record with "Barends"

| Jansje Barendsen   |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| in the Netherlands, Select Deaths and Burials, 1668-1945 |                                       |
| Name:  | Jansje Barendsen                      |
| Gender:  | Female                                |
| Marital Status:  | Married                               |
| Age:   | 45                                    |
| Birth Date:  | 1820                                  |
| Birth Place:   | Amsterdam                             |
| Death Date:  | 30 nov 1865                           |
| Death Place:   | Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, Nederland   |
| Spouse:  | <a href="#">Adam Friderich Metsch</a> |
| FHL Film Number:   | 253831                                |
| Reference ID:  | 111                                   |
| <b>Suggested Reco</b>                                    |                                       |
| <a href="#">Netherlands, Civil 1795-1950</a>             | Jansje Barendsen                      |
| <a href="#">Netherlands, Civil 1795-1950</a>             | Jansje Barendsen                      |
| <a href="#">Netherlands, Civil 1795-1950</a>             | Jansje Barendsen                      |
| <a href="#">Netherlands, Select Burials, 1668-1944</a>   | Jansje Barendsen                      |
| <a href="#">Michigan, Death F</a>                        |                                       |

This is Jansje's death record, with "Barendsen"

Perplexity also mentioned that "Barend" is the Dutch version of "Bernard," which has Germanic roots meaning "brave as a bear."

# Elburg: from Roman camp to vibrant modern town

Elburg, Jansje's birthplace, is a well-preserved medieval fortress town on the Veluwe River, in Gelderland, Netherlands.



*Elburg today (Elburg\_stadszicht\_2008 by Spotter2 on commons.wikipedia.org)*

The town was once a Roman military camp, rebuilt in the Middle Ages. Today, Elburg is a popular tourist destination with cobbled streets, old ramparts, and many historic monuments and lively events like Botterdagen (historic fishing boat days) and Kerst in de Vesting (Christmas in the Fortress).

◀ 1820   ◀ 2025   ◀ ELBURG   ◀ JANSJE BARENSEN   ◀ NETHERLANDS