

# van Raaphorst-Metsch Family History



**Anna van Raaphorst-Johnson  
Third Edition (3.0) - November 2014**



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# Chapter 1

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## Introduction

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Keyword tags: ancestor, Canada, descendant, Johnson, Metsch, Michigan, Netherlands, United States, van Raaphorst

### Primary subjects of this book

This book provides information about the following people:

- The van Raephorst and van Raaphorst nobility
- Christiaan Frederik (Chris) van Raaphorst, born 1852 in the Netherlands
- His wife, Elisabeth Johanna Maria Metsch, born 1854 in the Netherlands
- Some of Chris and Elisabeth's ancestors
- Some of their descendants, primarily descendants of Johan Nicolaas (John) van Raaphorst, their youngest son, and his wives, Johanna Dienst and Nettie Augusta (Nan) Riedel

The entire van Raaphorst family living at the time emigrated from Amsterdam, the Netherlands, between 1905 and 1920; they settled first in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, and later in Detroit and Port Huron, Michigan, USA. A number of their descendants still live in Michigan, but many have migrated all around the United States.

### About this book

This is the third edition of *van Raahorst-Metsch Family History*, copyright 2012-2014 Anna van Raaphorst-Johnson and Richard H. (Dick) Johnson. The first edition was written by Nettie (Nan) Riedel van Raaphorst and Anna van Raaphorst-Johnson, and was published September 19, 1989. The second edition (2.0 and 2.1) was written by Anna van Raaphorst-Johnson and was published January 2013. The third edition obsoletes all prior editions.

John passed on in 1986 and Nan in 2000. In 2012 and 2013 the original material was updated and expanded (by me, Anna) as a celebration of her and Richard Harold (Dick) Johnson's 50th wedding anniversary (June 22, 2013). The second edition contains most of the original narratives, but none of the genealogical material, which is now recorded in the van Raaphorst-Riedel Family Tree in Family Tree Maker (see [For More Information](#) on page 83).

The book is dedicated to the memory of my father, Johan Nicolaas (John) van Raaphorst, and to my descendants, who still carry the genes of the people described here. I hope my descendants and my other van Raaphorst and Metsch relatives enjoy the story and continue to add to it over time.

### Changes to the third edition

This edition corrects some errors and omissions, adds photographs from our 50th anniversary trip to the Netherlands in 2013, and adds information gathered during major genealogical research in 2014. In edition 3.1 I added the section on the van Raaphorst family migration.

**Related material**

This document is a companion piece to other printed and electronic documents about Anna and Dick's families, listed in *For More Information* on page 83. Some of those documents, as well as periodic family information updates, are available on the News From Nan website ([www.newsfromnan.com](http://www.newsfromnan.com)).

**Acknowledgments**

I am grateful to the following people, whose contributions to this story have made it even richer.

- Christian Friedrich Metsch
- Sientje Metsch
- Nan Riedel van Raaphorst
- Chris van Raaphorst (son of Harry)
- John van Raaphorst
- Bets van Raaphorst Immig

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# Chapter 2

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## The van Raephorst / van Raaphorst Nobility

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Keyword tags: castle, estate, Hague, nobility, van Raaphorst, van Raephorst, Wassenaar

This chapter provides an overview of the van Raephorst (later changed to van Raaphorst) nobility, who at one time owned land and one or more castles in the area around Wassenaar, a very affluent community near the Hague. Some of the members of the noble family played minor roles in Dutch history from the 13th through the 16th centuries.

These noble ancestors, I am sorry to say, are likely NOT *our* direct ancestors, although we do share their name, which our family might have acquired from a close association with the property. I do know for a fact that some of our van Raaphorst ancestors did live in the area of Sassenheim, which is quite close to Wassenaar.

I've included information about these noble "characters" purely for fun. I hope other van Raaphorst descendants (many of whom now spell the name Van Raaphorst) find reading about them interesting, and who knows — maybe a direct connection between us and them will be revealed at some point in the future!

## The Royal Estates De Horsten

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Keyword tags: castle, De Horsten, Eikenhorst estate, estate, Hague, horst, Metsch, nobility, Raaphorst estate, Sassenheim, Ter Horst estate, van Raaphorst, van Raephorst, Wassenaar

### ***Landgoed De Horsten (Estate of the Horsts)***

In Dutch a *horst* is a raised area of land (not as high as a hill, and usually sandy) in surrounding lowlands or marshlands. There are a number of horsts in the area around Wassenaar, near the Hague. The surrounding lowlands are used as pastures or for agriculture, and the excess water drains into small canals.

The "De Horsten" properties originally consisted of three estates, each with its own castle:

- Raephorst (now called Raaphorst)
- Eikenhorst
- Ter Horst

The estates were originally owned by various members of the Dutch nobility, including the van Raephorst/Raaphorst family. Starting about 1700 the estates began to change hands periodically through private sales or auctions. In the mid-19th century Prince Frederick of the Netherlands bought all three estates, demolished at least one of the castles, and made the land part of the extensive holdings of the Dutch Royal Family. In the early 19th century some of the land was made publicly accessible as a park or open space with lots of hiking and biking paths.

### **The Raephorst/Raaphorst castle**

The Raephorst castle was built by Kerstand [Christiaan] van Raephorst in 1230 and was owned and occupied by members of the van Raephorst/Raaphorst families for centuries. In 1706 the castle was offered as a prize in a lottery by two family members (sisters) who could no longer afford the upkeep. When the winner of the lottery found out the estate was in debt he declined to accept the prize. The winner of a second lottery in 1711

was the wife of William Cadogan, 1st Earl of Cadogan and a military officer in the army of John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, who fought in the War of the Spanish Succession. The Cadogans later sold the estate, and it eventually ended up in the hands of Adriaan Pieter Twent, Minister of Public Works under King Louis of Holland. Twent, who was known as Twent van Raephorst, was an expert on water management and reclamation.

The Raephorst castle was no longer in good repair when Prince Frederik bought it, and he had it torn down in 1840. In 1903 Queen Wilhelmina made it part of the Netherlands domain.

### The Eikenhorst castle

For about 50 years, starting in about 1550, Hendrik van Raephorst owned this property as well as the Raephorst property. The Eikenhorst castle was still standing until World War II, when it was destroyed by bombs

### Ter Horst

The Ter Horst castle was built in 1203 by Philip van Wassenaar. Prince Frederik tore it down in 1845 and in its place put a hunting lodge, which was built in the neo-Gothic style of architecture. The hunting lodge is still standing today.

### Maps, drawings and photos of the estates

The following maps show the location of the De Horsten royal estates near the town of Wassenaar in the province of South Holland. The other images are drawings of the Raephorst castle and a contemporary photo of the tea pavilion that still exists in the park.



Figure 1: Map of Wassenaar and the location of the De Horsten estates



Figure 2: Locations of the Raaphorst and Eikenhorst estates



Figure 3: Raaphorst castle



**Figure 4: Raaphorst castle**



**Figure 5: Tea pavilion on the De Horsten estates**

**Photos of the estates (1955)**

I have visited the De Horsten estates several times, starting in 1955, when I traveled to Europe with my parents and Aunt Betty. The following photos show one of the Raaphorst Lane street signs, a carriage we rode in on our visit, and the "Raaphorst" gate (the gate, which marks the former entrance to the estate, formerly bore the name between the two lion statues). The gray VW was the car we rented to drive around Europe.

The following pictures were taken on the 1955 trip.



**Figure 6: Raaphorst Lane street sign**



**Figure 7: Carriage on the De Horsten estates**



**Figure 8: Raaphorst gate**

**Photos of the estates (1978)**

In 1978 our whole family (Dick and I plus Ellen, Tim and Gillian) drove and walked around the De Horsten estates. We were on a trip to Europe that also included France, Belgium, and England.

The following pictures were all taken in 1978.



Figure 9: Raaphorst Lane street sign



Figure 10: De Horsten estates sign



Figure 11: Polder



**Figure 12: Polder and cows**



**Figure 13: Hunting lodge (exterior)**



**Figure 14: Hunting lodge (interior)**



**Figure 15: Raaphorst gate**



**Figure 16: Tim at Wassenaar beach**



**Figure 17: Windmill near the town of Wassenaar**

### Photos of the estates (2006)

In 2006 Dick and I visited the Wassenaar area as a side trip when we attended a technical conference in Amsterdam. We had beautiful weather for a walk around the estates. We saw not only the public park (site of the former estates owned by the nobility) but also many of the modern-day estates, which are also quite impressive.

The following pictures were all taken in 2006.



Figure 18: Raaphorst Lane street sign



Figure 19: Modern-day estate



**Figure 20: Modern-day estate**

**Photos of the estates (2013)**

In 2013 we took a van tour of the estates as part of our 50th wedding anniversary celebration. With us were the Blomquist and Livengood families, including all four grandchildren.

The following pictures were taken on the 2013 trip.



**Figure 21: Raaphorst Lane street sign**



**Figure 22: House in the ter Horsten estates**



**Figure 23: Grandkids in the ter Horsten estates**

## Stories of the van Raephorst / van Raaphorst Nobles

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Keyword tags: castle, estate, Hague, Hilversum, Netherlands, nobility, shield, Tromp, van Raaphorst, van Raephorst, Wassenaar

*The first edition of this book contained a number of stories of the noble van Raaphorsts, which were gathered from the Netherlands national Archives and translated from the Dutch by Chris van Raaphorst, son of Harry, who (as far as I know) was the only van Raaphorst descendant to go back to the Netherlands to live. In reviewing the stories for this second edition of the book I discovered that some of them have since been discredited, and others, while part of the Netherlands "national mythology," may be true only in a general sense. I have eliminated those for which I could find no verification from reliable information sources. I have included a few research notes below.*



**Figure 24: Raephorst shield**

### **Kerstand [Christiaan] van Raaphorst**

Although I found some date discrepancies for Kerstand, it does appear that he had the Raephorst castle built in 1230, and that his descendants lived there for several centuries.

[Many information sources for Kerstand are in Dutch, and I have found most of the machine translations to be inadequate unless you already know a little Dutch. However, since the De Hosten estates (site of the

Raephorst castle) still exist and are popular with both locals and tourists, they are documented in English on a number of easily accessible websites.]

### **Dirk and Gerrit van Raephorst**

The legend is that these two brothers fought the West Friesians with Count Floris V, who is credited with being one of the most important figures of the first, native dynasty of Holland (833-1299). A dispute between Floris V and King Edward I of England resulted in the dramatic murder of the count (by Gerard of Velzen), and helped to spread his fame. His murder was written about in songs, plays, and books in the Netherlands, the best known play being *Gijsbrecht van Aemstel* by the 17th century playwright and poet Joost van den Vondel, which is about the sacking of Amsterdam in the days after the death of Floris V.

A side-narrative has the murder not motivated by political events, but by a desire for personal revenge. As the story goes, Gerard's wife Catharina was raped by Floris V, and Gerard gathered some of his noble friends, including two of Catharina's brothers, Dirk and Gerrit van Raephorst, to kill the count. Apparently this story is untrue.

[It is relatively easy to get more information about Floris V (but not, unfortunately, about Dirk and Gerrit van Raephorst). A long article on Wikipedia (in English) about Floris V attempts to separate fact from fiction regarding the count's murder.]

### **Bartholomeus van Raephorst**

The story is that Bartholomeus was knighted on the battlefield of Edingen in 1367. In 1396 he accompanied Albrecht of Bavaria, Earl of Holland, in battle against Friesland, and he distinguished himself well.

[Bartholomeus did exist in this general timeframe, although I was unable to verify the details. There were a number of battles between the Hollanders and the Frieslanders during the Hundred Years' War (1337-1453). Bartholomeus was married to Catharina van Egmond, daughter of Jan I van Egmont, who played a rather major role in Dutch history. One of Jan's sons, also named Jan, was married to a Johanna van Raephorst.]

### **Another Gerrit van Raephorst**

A tale about an event involving another Gerrit van Raephorst one Sunday morning in 1508 is apparently mostly true. Gerrit and some of his friends kidnapped a 13-year-old girl, Katrijn [Catherine], daughter of Alyt van Tetrode and stepdaughter of Pieter de Grebber, as she and her parents were riding in their carriage from Leiden, their home, to church in Wassenaar. The kidnapers fled with Catherine to a neighboring town where they persuaded a religious official to marry Gerrit and Katrijn. Then Gerrit took Katrijn to a secluded location in Culemborg, where he kept her a virtual prisoner for some time. There is still a historical dispute over whether the girl went willingly with Gerrit or whether she was really kidnapped.

Be that as it may, Katrijn apparently got tired of her life with Gerrit, escaped, and returned to her parents. Gerrit was eventually tried, convicted of kidnapping, banished for awhile, and eventually made to do penance for his misdeeds.

### **Herpert van Raephorst**

In 1566, another van Raephorst ne'er-do-well, Herpert (or Herbert), caused a local scandal by appearing drunk in church along with a group of friends. During the service they forced the organist to play bawdy drinking songs, and when the pastor objected, they slapped him and complained about having to endure his ungodly sermons.

A bailiff was summoned and Herpert was arrested and put on trial. During the course of the court hearing it was brought to light that Herpert and his servants had broken into another church (the Willibrod Church of Wassenaar) and destroyed two altars. (Herpert's brother Albrecht had the altars repaired at his own expense.) In addition, Herpert and some friends had previously gone on a drunken rampage in North Holland and destroyed an Abbey.

For his many misdeeds Herpert was banished from Holland.

### Margarethe van Raephorst

In 1667, Margarethe van Raephorst, widow of Johan van Helmond, former alderman and councilor, married Cornelis Tromp, son of a famous Dutch naval officer and himself a naval officer and participant in three Anglo-Dutch wars and the Scanian war. Cornelis had a reputation for living a lavish lifestyle; he apparently married Margarethe for her money. Both Margarethe and Cornelis were painted by famous Dutch artists.

Neither Margarethe nor Cornelis had any children.

The house in the following figure, called Trompenburgh, was owned by Margarethe and Cornelis (and at the time called Syllisburg). It was built in 1654 for Cornelis's father Maarten. Margarethe's first husband inherited the property, which was looted and burned by the French in 1672. Cornelis and Margarethe partially restored it during the time period 1675-1684. It has been completely restored in recent times.

Trompenburgh is located in s'Graveland, a village in North Holland near Hilversum.



**Figure 25: Trompenburgh near Hilversum**



**Figure 26: Margarethe van Raephorst (1668, artist: Jan Mytens)**



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# Chapter

# 3

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## Ancestors

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Keyword tags: ancestor, Metsch, van Raaphorst

This chapter provides an overview of our van Raaphorst-Metsch ancestors and the areas of Ontario and Michigan first settled by family members who migrated from the Old World to the New.

For a more detailed picture of the the van Raaphorst family migration, see the paper "Untangling the Tangled Tale of My Dutch Immigrant Ancestors," which is described in the "For More Information" section of this book.

### The van Raaphorst-Metsch Families

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Keyword tags: ancestor, Baden-Württemberg, Canada, family, Germany, Hessigheim, Metsch, Netherlands, Sassenheim, South Holland, United States, van Raaphorst

The history of our van Raaphorst-Metsch family divides roughly into four parts, geographically as well as in ancestry.

1. For 200 years or more before the family migrated from the Old World to the New, our van Raaphorst ancestors were living in *Zuid* [South] Holland (Sassenheim, near the Hague).
2. The Metsch ancestors were German, and they lived in Württemberg (the south-western part of Germany, most of them in and around Hessigheim), from at least the early part of the 17th century until about 1820, when some of them, our ancestors included, immigrated to Amsterdam.
3. Both the van Raaphorsts and the Metsches lived in the area around Amsterdam from about 1820 until the early part of the 20th century, when the family immigrated, starting in 1905 and in several waves, first to Ontario, Canada, and then to the U.S. state of Michigan.
4. Starting in the early 1950s many members of the family migrated further. One member of the family (Chris van Raaphorst, son of Harry) returned to the Netherlands, where he was born and where he died. Others scattered to different parts of the United States, some all the way to the West Coast.



Figure 27: Sassenheim, home of the van Raaphorsts until 1820



Figure 28: Hessigheim, home of the Metsches until 1820



Figure 29: Amsterdam, home to both 1820-1905



Figure 30: Sarnia, Port Huron and Detroit, Michigan

## van Raaphorst Branch Family History

Keyword tags: Amsterdam, ancestor, Biessenaar, Bisson, Enkhuizen, family, Fluitier, Haarlem, Heijndriks, Kuyper, Lisse, Metsch, Netherlands, Niks, North Holland, Rutgers, Sassenheim, Soetemeer, South Holland, van Beijeren, van der Schilde, van Nortveen, van Raaphorst, van Tongeren

The oldest van Raaphorst ancestors I know much of anything about are my great-grandparents:

- Theodorus Leonardus van Raaphorst, born 1825 in Haarlem, North Holland, Netherlands
- His wife, Agatha Bisson, born 1820 in Enkhuizen, North Holland, Netherlands

Most of Theodorus's ancestors came from South Holland, particularly the towns of Sassenheim and Lisse, which is perhaps where the surnames van Raephorst and van Raaphorst originated, since there were a number of people bearing that name in the area.

### van Raaphorst family surnames

Some of the other surnames in the van Raaphorst branch of the family were the following:

- Biesenaar
- Heijndriks
- Henkers
- Nik
- Soetemeer
- van Beijeren
- van der Schilde
- van Nortveen
- van Tongeren

The names of Agatha's parents and grandparents are known, but where they were born is less clear.

Some of the other surnames in the Bisson branch of the family were the following:

- Fluiter
- Kuyper
- Rutgers

### Theodorus van Raaphorst and Agatha Bisson

Theodorus (a *stalknecht*, or stable boy) and Agatha (daughter of a Roman Catholic mother and an Evangelical Lutheran father) were married on Christmas Eve in 1851. Theirs was a very difficult marriage.

Based on the evidence available, Agatha probably had a difficult life *before* she was married, as well. Her father gave her his name but didn't register her birth until she was of marriageable age. Agatha's parents didn't marry until she was five years old (in the Evangelical Lutheran *Oude Kerk*, or Old Church). Agatha probably lived with her Catholic grandparents, Antonius Kuyper and Aagje Fluiter.

Christiaan Frederik (Chris) van Raaphorst (our ancestor), Theodorus and Agatha's oldest son, was born 24 March 1852. Both Chris and his mother Agatha probably lived for long periods of time with her parents, Christiaan Frederik Bisson (who must have been my grandfather Chris' namesake) and Aaltje Kuyper.

At some point after the birth of Theodorus and Agatha's third child, Theodorus abandoned Agatha and the children and disappeared for 30 years. When he finally returned, Agatha was already dead.

Theodorus's return was somewhat tarnished, like his watch chain. The story goes that the family at first thought that he had made a fortune, since he was wearing a gold watch chain. When they found out that the chain was really brass, the welcome was less warm. In about 1898 he left the family and disappeared again, telling them that he was going to Haarlem or the Hague. They never heard from him again.

I recently (2014) came across an online record documenting Theodorus' second marriage, 7 June 1899, to Jannetje Maria van der Reijden (born 12 April 1840), who was also married once or twice before. So far no additional records have come to light; in particular, I still don't know when and where Theodorus died.

## Record



**Figure 31: Marriage certificate for Theodorus van Raaphorst and Agatha Bisson**

## Chris van Raaphorst (son of Theodorus and Agatha) and his siblings

Theodorus and Agatha had four children, three boys and a girl. Chris' next-younger brother, Johannes, lived for less than a year. Sister Alida Maria lived for about three years. Youngest brother Antonius Theodorus (likely named for his maternal grandfather Antonius Kuyper), apparently lived to adulthood. He was reported to have migrated or traveled to Indonesia. My mother (Nan) told a story of watching a travelogue of Indonesia in the 1980s and suddenly seeing on the TV screen a large monument with the name A. van Raaphorst on it. The camera was panning an old colonial cemetery in Bandeh Aceh. Could it have been Chris' brother (Anthony), or maybe a descendant? So far we don't have an answer to that question.

## Photos and records



**Figure 32: Chris van Raaphorst in his Dutch Army uniform**



**Figure 33: Chris van Raaphorst in 1940, Marysville, Michigan**



**Figure 34: Chris and Elisabeth van Raaphorst**



Figure 35: Chris and Elisabeth van Raaphorst



Figure 36: Chris van Raaphorst's birth certificate



**Figure 37: Marriage registration for Chris van Raaphorst and Elisabeth Metsch**

### Nan's comments on the van Raaphorst branch family history

Keyword tags: Amsterdam, ancestor, Bisson, family, Haarlem, Indonesia, Metsch, Netherlands, North Holland, Sumatra, van Raaphorst, Willem III

*Written by Nettie (Nan) Riedel van Raaphorst in 1989 [Note by Anna: I have not been able to verify any of these stories]*

Leonard (Len) van Raaphorst (John's nephew) told me (Nan) the following stories about Theodorus Leonardus (Len's namesake).

When Theodorus was out skating on the canals in his youth, the last Dutch king to date [this would have been Willem III] was skating, also, and fell, breaking through the ice and going into the freezing water. T.L. got him out, and as a reward for having saved the king's life — and of course, the royal line, as well! — received a pension for life. [Note from Anna: This seems quite far-fetched to me, but I'll keep looking for verification.]

Leonard's father Chris van Raaphorst told him the reason T.L. stayed away for 30 years was that Agatha (Theodorus's wife) was a very difficult person. There was a religious difference: Agatha had been brought up Catholic and Theodorus was a Mason. Chris also said that T.L. was an engineer, and the first ever to operate a steam-powered ship.

Len said that Chris's brother Tony (Theodorus's youngest son) who went to Indonesia was named Tony and that he was killed in Sumatra, sneaked up on by a native with a *kris*, a wicked weapon with a hook.

### Metsch Branch Family History

Keyword tags: Amman, ancestor, Baden-Württemberg, Barendsen, family, Germany, Grossmeier, Haeussler, Hessigheim, Holbein, Hongerer, Meijer, Metsch, Naegele, Netherlands, Niemoeller, Sassenheim, Sluijters, South Holland, van Raaphorst, Veigel, Württemberg

The Metsch family came from the part of Germany now known as Baden-Württemberg. (From 1495 until 1806 it was known as the Duchy of Württemberg, and from 1806 until 1918 as the Kingdom of Württemberg.) We have traced our Metsch ancestors in the area around Hessigheim back to at least 1700.

Some time before 1819, one of the young sons of Adam and Eva Metsch, Albrecht Friedrich, immigrated to Amsterdam. He was only 20 or younger at the time, and he couldn't have been there very long, because he died there in 1819 at the age of 21. Sometime within the next year or two his older brother, Christian Friedrich (our ancestor), followed in his footsteps and also went to Amsterdam, where he married Johanna Elizabeth Niemoeller in 1823.

Johanna Elizabeth was an orphan who had been brought up in an Evangelical Lutheran orphanage. We don't know how long the Niemoellers had been living in Amsterdam, but her father had died and was buried there in 1805, and her mother still earlier.

Christian Friedrich Metsch and Johanna Elizabeth Niemoeller were the parents of five children, the oldest of which was our ancestor Adam Friedrich Metsch, undoubtedly named for his paternal grandfather.

Adam Friedrich and his wife Jansje Barendsen had three children, the oldest of which was our ancestor, Elisabeth Johanna Maria Metsch, whose namesake was probably her paternal grandmother, Johanna Elizabeth Niemoeller.

### **Metsch family surnames**

Some of the other surnames in the Metsch branch of the family were the following:

- Amman
- Barendsen
- Haeussler
- Grossmeier
- Holbein
- Hongerer
- Meijer
- Mose
- Naegele
- Niemoeller
- Veigel

### **Photos and records**

The only photos I have of the anyone in the Metsch family are of Elisabeth, my grandmother.



**Figure 38: Portrait of Elisabeth Metsch**



**Figure 39: Birth certificate for Elisabeth Metsch**

### **Elisabeth Metsch and Jan Sluijters**

Elisabeth Metsch was friends with Jan Sluijters (1881-1957), a Dutch artist known as a pioneer of various post-impressionist movements, including fauvism, cubism, and expressionism. He once gave her one of his sketches (shown below), which, I believe, is still owned by someone in the family.



**Figure 40: Sketch by Jan Sluijters**



**Figure 41: Self-portrait of Jan Sluijters**



**Figure 42: Painting by Jan Sluijters**

### **Nan's comments on the Metsch branch family history**

Keyword tags: Alemanni, ancestor, Ariovistus, Bekker, Catholic Church, families, Gallic Wars, genealogy, Julius Caesar, Lutheran Church, Metsch, Metzsch, Moesch, Monderen, Niemoeller, record, Suevi, van Raaphorst, Worster

*Written by Nettie (Nan) Riedel van Raaphorst in 1989*

### **Documented information about the Metsch family**

A lot of the genealogical information we have about the Metsch family is derived from marriage and baptismal records of the Evangelical Lutheran church in Hessigheim, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. The family was

Lutheran throughout the known family history: all the children who survived are recorded as confirmed at age fourteen. Opa had been brought up Catholic by his grandparents, but it was Opoe whose religious preference was followed in the rearing of their family.

Another source is the *Family Book of Worster, Metsch and Monderen*, hand-written by Christiaan Friedrich Metsch, who left Württemberg and came to Amsterdam in about 1822. The book was at one time in the possession of Sientje Metsch, widow of Chris Metsch (son of Chris Metsch), who was the brother of Elisabeth Johanna Maria Metsch van Raaphorst. Sometime before 1981 Sientje shared the book with Elisabeth Johanna Maria (Bets) van Raaphorst Immig. The information she copied out of the book was given to me (Nan), and I passed it on to Anna.

Following are the entries for the birth of Chris's five children in the Family Book.

2.Sept.1824 is born my oldest son, Adam Friederich Metsch, this evening at 9:30 p.m. May his name also be inscribed in Heaven.

30.Nov.1825 is another son born — the name is Christiaan Gottfried — this morning at 3:30 a.m. May his name also be inscribed in Heaven.

28.Feb.1827, at 11 o'clock in the evening, another son is born. His name is Hendrik Filip. May his name also be inscribed in Heaven.

12.Apr.1829 again a son is born — 1:30 a.m. His name is Johannes Martines. May his name also be inscribed in Heaven.

20.Nov.1831 a daughter is born to us. Her name is Elisabeth Hanrietta [sic] Antonetta. May her name also be inscribed in Heaven.

Five children completed the family. The following other events are also recorded.

6.Nov.1832 my beloved father has died — Adam Friederich Metsch. His dwelling place was in Hessigheim, Oberamt Besigheim, in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg [sic].

9.Sept.1840 my beloved wife and our dear mother has died, of an illness such that in the space of a few minutes she left this world. But we hope and believe that God has taken her poor soul in mercy, and now our dear wife and mother abides in a better world. We will see her again. Her life added up to 47 years, 5 months, and 9 days.

Amsterdam, 28.July.1845. My son Johannes Martines took service on a warship.

1863.Feb.11 — Elisabeth Hanrietta [sic] Antonetta Metsch married Wilhelmus Monderen, who was born 9.Nov.1828.

Another document from a relative invites friends to come to "*De Rode Leeuw* [The Red Lion] on Warmoesstraat, Amsterdam, in 11.Feb.1888 to celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of Wilhelmus Monderen and Elisabeth Henriette Antoinette Metsch."

In addition to the five children listed above, there was one stepchild, Maria Worster, child of Maria Bekker by her first husband. Maria was born 2 February 1807. [Chris's sister or stepsister?]

### **Metsch family lore**

[Note by Anna: I have not been able to verify any of the following stories.]

In 1534 one Levin Metzsch owned one of the very first Luther Bibles. This would indicate a man of education and perhaps of means, as well, but is not so far-fetched in light of the fact that the descendents seem to have been prominent citizens.

The first "Metsch" in Hessigheim was a minister, Timotheus Moesch: 1557-1562.

The next Metsch recorded in Hessigheim was one Johannes, fisherman and member of the local law court, in Hessigheim about 1620. Although we do not have the intervening generations, one of the first documented ancestors was also a Johannes (and also a fisherman and member of the local law court).

### Historical interpolation

The people of this geographical area were Swabian, descendents of the tribe called Suevi in Julius Caesar's time. Ariovistus was their leader in the Gallic Wars, and when ordered to present himself to Caesar, he replied, in effect, "If Caesar wants to talk to me, he knows where I am." There were also Alemanni (400-600 A.D.) and Caesar found none of them easy. So the very firm character of *Opo*e van Raaphorst was part of her heritage!

## Life in Amsterdam

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Keyword tags: Amsterdam, ancestor, Catholic Church, goat, horse, Lutheran Church, Metsch, Netherlands, occupation, pet, van Oldenbarneveldt Street, van Raaphorst

*Written by Nettie (Nan) Riedel van Raaphorst in 1989*

### Religious differences

The religious traditions (Catholic, in the case of Christiaan Frederik van Raaphorst, and Lutheran for Elisabeth Johanna Maria Metsch) were very strong in the families. So it shouldn't have been a surprise that at least some of the family differences centered around religion and how the children should be raised.

Elisabeth decided to raise her family in the Lutheran tradition, but the local Catholic priest (but apparently not her husband) objected. One day the priest came to the van Raaphorst house to ask *Opa* (Grandpa, Chris) why the children were not coming to the Catholic church. The discussion was short, and not with *Opa*:

*Opo*e (Grandma, Elisabeth, to the priest): Do you see where the carpenter made the opening for the door?

*Priest*: Chris..? [Are you going to put up with that kind of talk?]

*Opa* (quietly): You had better go, Father.

"Father" went.

Not that the family grew up sternly religious, in any denomination. They were *sent* to Sunday school but had their subterfuges to indicate attendance when they didn't choose to go: like bringing home the same Sunday School attendance card week after week. *Opa* said grace at table, sometimes with an incongruous epithet and the back of the hand for the hungry miscreant who couldn't wait and began to reach for the food before grace was done.

Incidentally, the boys *stood* at table: there were not enough chairs. When they protested, *Opa* said, "The queen's horses stand to eat, too." They never understood why this was relevant, but the subject was closed.

### The family home and business

All seven of Chris and Elisabeth's children were born at the same address: 17 (pronounced in Dutch "say-fen-teen") *van Oldenbarneveldtstraat* (van Oldenbarneveldt street, named for Johan van Oldenbarneveldt, a Dutch statesman who played an important role in the Dutch struggle for independence from Spain). The street is in the Westerpark district of Amsterdam that is just one canal west of the traditional boundary of the

Jordaan, a well-known district with a colorful past. Apparently Westerpark used to be more industrial than residential; its residential area has gone through a complete renovation in recent years and seems to be a desirable place to live.

Later they moved to a house at the corner where the family kept a store. The family had a delivery and moving service, and the horse that drew the cart lived in a square behind the store and was led into it at night and out of it in the morning *through* the store! I have always enjoyed a vicarious excitement thinking of leading that horse through the store! I never knew any other horse with the distinction of a store as his front vestibule!

John had a disability resulting from trying to "catch a ride" on that cart. When he was small, he jumped up on the cart as it pulled up in front of the store at the homecoming hour. The horse moved forward unexpectedly and threw John backwards onto the cobblestones. There was bleeding from the ear at the time, and he was always hard of hearing on that side.

The only other "pet" they ever had was a *bokje* (little goat) that John considered his. Since they lived over the store and space was so limited that the boys slept three to a (narrow) bed, it is not surprising that "Bookie" didn't remain long in the family.

Opa was a crier (before telephones), a delivery man, and a coal merchant — and was called a carpenter when they emigrated; Opo managed the store and helped with all the rest. She was also a wet nurse (there are great tales about the abundance of her milk supply for her babies and plenty to spare for less fortunate neighborhood babes). She seems to have been fearless neighborhood helper in times of illness and trouble. She even kidnapped a child for the mother in a custody case!

The boys played in the street and were called "street urchins" by their big sister, Bets. She was a sort of second mother for all those younger brothers and hadn't much time for play, as indeed, none of them had. The ball the boys played with was their own manufacture: rags wound tightly around a center.

John seems to have been kept busy wearing out his shoes running errands, delivering messages and packages, going across town to buy a pound of meat or a few ounces of tea somewhere where the price was a penny or so cheaper — and lucky to get a bite of lunch before he had to get back to school. I think John was hungry the whole time he was growing up.

Times were not unduly hard until perhaps about 1900 or so. When they began to pinch more than usual, there was discussion about buying second-hand shoes for him! This was an indignity he could not endure, and his father finally sided with him about that — to earn John's undying gratitude. He was subjected to quite a lot of embarrassment through a circumstance that might have been considered an advantage: he was enrolled in a school "above his station." "The crier's son" in an upper-class school got his share of snubs in class-conscious Holland — very hard on John's proud spirit. He never forgot — nor forgave -- one snippy little girl who *ordered* him to remove his cap before she would accept from his hand the delivery he was making to her door!

### **Emigration plans**

As economic times got worse, the family decided to emigrate, and all the plans were made to go to South Africa when the Boer War broke out. Then, before they changed their plans for the New World, Willem died, of tuberculosis. He had been working in a cigar factory, not a healthy atmosphere for a teenage boy. The progress of the disease sounds like the "Galloping consumption" I have heard Mother mention.

**Photos of the family in Amsterdam**



**Figure 43: Willem, Harry and John van Raaphorst (about 1900)**



**Figure 44: John van Raaphorst age 12 (about 1908)**

Map and photos of the Westerpark and Jordaan neighborhoods



Figure 45: Location of the Westerpark and Jordaan neighborhoods

**Photos of van Oldenbarneveldt Street**



**Figure 46: Neighborhood (before 1910)**



**Figure 47: Number 17 (in 1955)**



**Figure 48: Number 17 (in 1973)**



**Figure 49: Number 17 (in 1994)**



**Figure 50: Number 17 (in 2013)**



**Figure 51: Corner store (in 1955)**



**Figure 52: Corner store (in 1973)**



**Figure 53: Location of former corner store (in 2006)**



**Figure 54: Street sign (in 1994)**



**Figure 55: Number 151 (Aunt Betty's house) in 1955**



**Figure 56: van Oldenbarneveldt Park (in 1994)**



**Figure 57: van Oldenbarneveldt Park (in 2006)**



**Figure 58: Blomquists in the van Oldenbarneveldt neighborhood (in 2013)**



**Figure 59: Blomquists and Livengoods in the van Oldenbarneveldt neighborhood (in 2013)**

**Photos of the Jordaan neighborhood**



**Figure 60: Aunt Betty's school (in 2006)**



**Figure 61: Neighborhood renovation (in 2006)**



**Figure 62: Jordaan neighborhood (in 2006)**



**Figure 63: Houses along a canal (in 2006)**



**Figure 64: Canal near van Oldenbarneveldt Street (in 2006)**



**Figure 65: Houses (in 2006)**



**Figure 66: Neighborhood (in 2006)**



**Figure 67: Bicycles (in 2006)**



**Figure 68: Playground (in 2006)**

### **Anna's comments on life in Amsterdam**

Keyword tags: Almelo, Amsterdam, ancestor, Jordaan, Metsch, Netherlands, North Holland, van Raaphorst, Wassenaar, Westerpark

*Written by Anna van Raaphorst in 2012 and 2014*

In the summer of 1955 my parents, Aunt Betty and I went to Europe to visit family and friends, and as a tourist adventure. We walked around the Westerpark/Jordaan neighborhood where Dad and Aunt Betty used to live; visited the Wassenaar area where the van Raaphorst castle used to stand; visited the family of our friend Netty in Almelo; and rented a VW and drove through Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, France, and Belgium. My mother and I also took a train from Amsterdam to Copenhagen and a short bus tour of Southern Sweden.

I also went to the Netherlands in 1973 (along with Dick, Ellen and Tim), in 1978 (along with Dick, Ellen, Tim and Gillian), by myself on a professional trip in the 1994, and in 2006 (along with Dick).

In 2013 Dick and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary by showing our Blomquist and Livengood families around Amsterdam. It was a thrill to pass along a few families stories to the youngest generation!

### **The Johan van Oldenbarneveldt ship, 1955**

On the 1955 trip, my family and I traveled to Europe by ship (Holland America Line) in both directions. Going east we took the *Rotterdam* from New York to Rotterdam, with brief stops in Ireland and England. Tourist traffic was so heavy that year (the first after World War II when much tourist activity was encouraged or even permitted) that a few "older" ships were drafted into the fleet. We were excited that we would be sailing on the *Johan van Oldenbarneveldt*, a former World War I troop ship bearing the name of the same Dutch naval hero as the street where the van Raaphorst family used to live!

The ship, which had only recently been taken out of mothballs, was not the best. In the middle of the Atlantic a hurricane that had worked its way up to New York City, and then veered eastward, hit us full blast. It was a pretty scary experience! We were very glad to reach land (Halifax, Nova Scotia) after 10 days at sea.



**Figure 69: Johan van Oldenbarneveldt ship docked in Rotterdam**



**Figure 70: Hurricane on the Atlantic**

## Migration

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*Written by Anna van Raaphorst in July 2014. This section was first written as a paper titled "Untangling the Tangled Tale of My Dutch Immigrant Ancestors," which I wrote as an assignment in an online genealogy course I was taking from Salt Lake Community College.*

As the youngest by 14 years of my paternal first cousins, I missed a lot of the juicy van Raaphorst family gossip. And I never heard much family history from my father, either, who was a down-to-earth, practical kind of guy (typical Dutchman!) and not much of a storyteller. My mother, who was a motivated family historian, was my dad's second wife (and a German, to boot!), and was never fully accepted into the van Raaphorst clan.

When I began to do family history research on my own and began to learn more about the family, I was bowled over by the complexity of their immigration story. These people were not at all like my mother's relatives, families who crossed the Atlantic *en masse*, and who forged a new life for themselves and their children in a moderately large New World ethnic community. The van Raaphorsts, by contrast, came as a single, three-generation family, and they had very little outside support. Some family members made a two-year stop in Ontario, Canada, and all members returned to the Old County at least once. As a group they took 15 years to complete their migration!

My most recent efforts to sort out the van Raaphorst family immigration story have been quite successful. The questions I have been most interested in answering are the following:

1. What advantages would a life in Western Ontario and Eastern Michigan have offered the van Raaaphorst family?

2. What family problems or economic hardships in the Netherlands might have given them a strong motivation to leave?
3. What individual characteristics and group strengths have allowed them to successfully complete the journey?
4. What had the family accomplished when the migration was complete?

In this paper I have attempted to demonstrate that there were probably equally compelling “push” and “pull” motivations for the van Raaphorst family to migrate; that they had the educational background, financial resources, and strength of character to succeed; and, by the year 1940 (20 or more years after they arrived in the United States), they had achieved greater economic success than most other Americans.

### The van Raaphorst Family

The van Raaphorsts were typical urbanites living in the heart of Amsterdam. My grandfather, Christiaan Frederik (“Chris F.”), and grandmother, Elisabeth Johanna Maria Metsch van Raaphorst (who married in 1880), were ambitious and hardworking, but 19th century Holland was not a land of unlimited opportunity. In fact, during most of the century it was a rather uninviting and even forbidding place, as the following descriptions illustrate:

[One thing] that one would notice on a trip back into the nineteenth century would almost certainly be smells, or, more precisely, the stench.<sup>1</sup>

In autumn, the wooden parts of the houses, especially in the Jordaan [the van Raaphorsts’ neighborhood] looked as if blackened with pencils, a consequence of the chemical effect of stinking sulphuric vapours on the white lead in the paint.<sup>2</sup>

The van Raaphorst family experienced a lot of the unpleasantness firsthand: for example, son Willem, who was working in a cigar factory by the age of 15, contracted tuberculosis and died before his 17th birthday. Injuries, some of them quite serious, were a daily hazard in their moving business: for example, at a young age my father fell off the back of the wagon when the horse pulled forward unexpectedly, and he suffered a concussion that caused complete deafness in one ear.

They also felt the sting of class discrimination: my father told of the humiliation he suffered in having to doff his working-class cap to the young daughter of one of his parents’ clients before she would accept the package he was delivering.

I will probably never know whether “push” motivators like these outweighed the “pull” motivators in the New World, but I do know that poor working conditions and lack of socioeconomic opportunity in the Netherlands did play a role in the family’s decision to migrate.

### Family Members

The family group consisted of my grandparents and their seven children, who had a total of eight spouses and 19 children (36 people in all).<sup>3</sup>

- Daughter Elisabeth Johanna Maria (“Bets,” b. 1881) married Bernardus Johannes Immig (called “Pipey,” because he smoked a pipe) in Amsterdam in 1902, and by 1905 had two daughters, both born in Amsterdam.
- Son Christiaan Gottfried (“Chris G.,” b. 1883) was still single in 1905 when he was the first family member to cross the Atlantic. He married Lulu Jacques, a French Canadian woman, in 1911. One son was born and died within a month in Canada, and the other was born in the United States.

<sup>1</sup> Geert Mak, *Amsterdam* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2000), 191

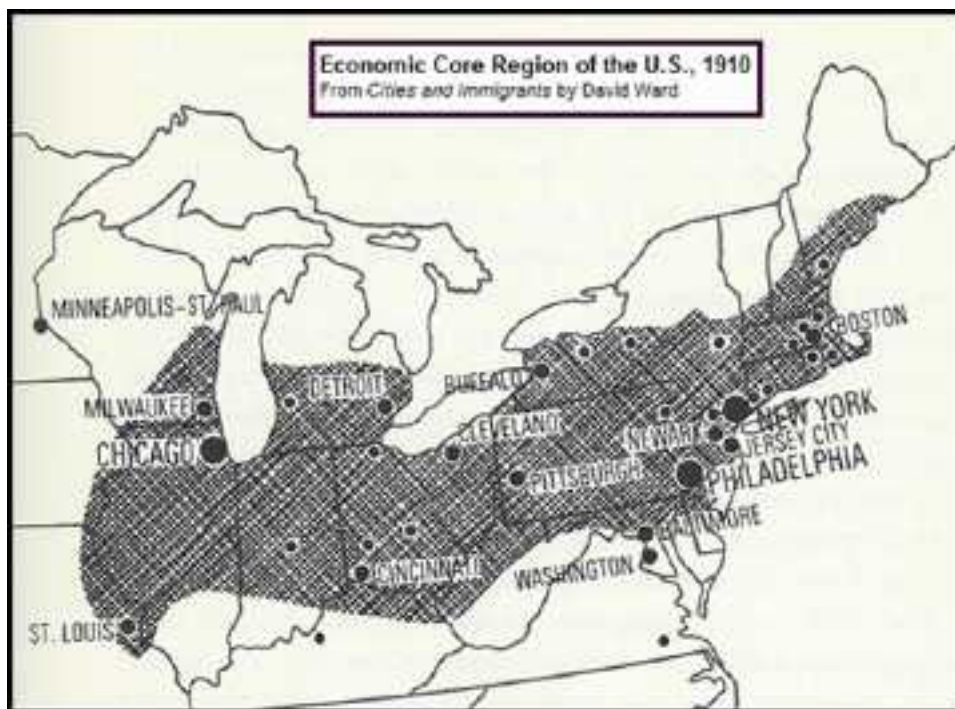
<sup>2</sup> Mak, *Amsterdam*, 192.

<sup>3</sup> Here I have included both their birth name and Americanized name or nickname. In subsequent references I use their Americanized name or nickname only.

- Son Adam Friedrich (“Fred,” b. 1884) married Johanna Maria Landhuis<sup>4</sup> in Amsterdam in 1907 and had one daughter by the time he emigrated. His second daughter was born in Canada and his third in the United States.
- Son Antonius Theodorus (“Tony,” b. 1887) married Maria Johanna van Heusden in Amsterdam in 1909; two of his children were born in Amsterdam and the other two in the United States. After Marie died in 1949 he married Elizabeth Catherine Ponger.
- Son Hendricus Marinus (“Harry,” b. 1891) married in Canada in 1911; his Dutch wife Jansje (sometimes called “Jane”) de Groot arrived just two days before the wedding. Three of his children were born in Amsterdam and two were born in the United States. Harry’s oldest son Chris was the only family member to go back to the Netherlands to live.
- Son Wilhelmus Leonardus (“Willem,” b. 1893) died in Amsterdam in 1909 before most of the family had left.
- Son Johan Nicolaas (“John,” b. 1896, my father) had just completed his elementary education before he emigrated. In the United States he married another Dutch immigrant, Johanna Dienst, who died at age 43. His second wife (Nettie (“Nan”) Riedel, my mother) was the daughter of German immigrants. All three of his children (one by his first wife and two by his second, one stillborn) were born in the United States.

### Economic Opportunity in the New World

One of the first things I researched was economic opportunity in the metropolitan Detroit area, where the van Raaphorsts settled. One author puts Detroit at the heart of what he calls the Economic Core Region: 1910, as shown in Figure 71.<sup>5</sup> The automobile industry was just beginning to pick up steam, and Western Ontario, where the first wave of van Raaphorst immigrants stayed for a couple of years, benefited almost as much as Metropolitan Detroit.



**Figure 71: Economic Core Region of the U.S., 1910**

Although many auto industry jobs were unskilled or semiskilled, most of the male van Raaphorst family members were machinists, tool and die makers, and die sinkers—all skilled jobs requiring a strong ability in

<sup>4</sup> Johanna’s stepfather’s surname was Bartels, and she sometimes went by that name herself.

<sup>5</sup> David Ward, *Cities and Immigrants: A Geography of Change in Nineteenth Century America*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1971), 41-43.

math and science. I wondered how the family members had acquired the knowledge they needed to take advantage of the New World opportunities.

### Family Education Levels

From family lore I knew that my grandparents had valued learning and had tried to give their children the best education possible; for example, my father attended private school, which was a big expense for a family with little money to spare. I also knew that the older generation (my grandparents' generation) had felt that they were short-changed in the educational level they were able to achieve.

When I researched education in the Netherlands in the late 19th century, I found that primary education through the 6th grade was not compulsory until 1900,<sup>6</sup> which was just before my father, who was born in 1896 (and the youngest child in the family), entered school. So what kind of education did the van Raaphorsts get before they left Amsterdam?

Fortunately the 1940 U.S. Federal Census has "highest education level achieved" information, and I was able to find census records for all the van Raaphorst immigrants in my father's generation. The following table provides an educational summary.

Name	Highest Education Level Achieved
Bets	Elementary school, 8th grade
Chris G.	High school, 2nd year
Fred	Elementary school, 7th grade
Tony	Elementary school, 8th grade
Harry	Elementary school, 8th grade
John	Elementary school, 8th grade (plus additional education after immigration, equivalent to high school, 4th year)

I believe these statistics show a high level of achievement for people living in the Netherlands in the late 19th century and a strong commitment to education on the part of my grandparents and their children. I was especially pleased that my aunt (Bets) received the same education as her younger brothers!

### Stages of Immigration

Before I started my current research I had only a vague notion of the timetable outlined below. Most of the information was gained through a thorough study of the following kinds of records:

- Dutch birth and marriage records<sup>7</sup>
- Immigration information in the 1920, 1930, and 1940 U.S. Federal Censuses
- Naturalization records for Eastern Michigan
- Border crossing records (between Canada and the U.S. or vice versa)

The family migrated in four stages, which are outlined below.

#### Stage 1 (1905): Arrival of the Family Scout in Canada

In 1905 my uncle Chris G. arrived in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada. He worked for five years as an interpreter for the Canadian government before anyone else in the family came.

Figure 72 shows Chris G. and his Canadian wife Lu in 1913.

<sup>6</sup> R. Luijckx and M. de Heus, "The Educational system of the Netherlands," *The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED-97): An Evaluation of Content and Criterion Validity for 15 European Countries*, (Mannheim: MZES, 2008), 47.

<sup>7</sup> Especially records available from *WieWasWie: Dutch Genealogy Records*, <http://www.wiewaswie.nl>.



**Figure 72: Lulu Jacques van Raaphorst and Chris G. van Raaphorst, 1913**

### **Stage 2 (1910): Migration of the First Wave**

The first wave, consisting of my grandparents (Chris F. and Elisabeth) and their sons Harry and John, arrived in Sarnia, Ontario, in June 1910.

I know from family lore and occupation information in U.S. census records that my grandmother (already 56 years old when she migrated) cooked and kept house, and the men in the family immediately went to work; my uncle worked in a railroad roundhouse and my dad started out cleaning spittoons in a hotel.

The picture below (Figure 73), probably taken near at time of their migration to Canada, is my grandparents.



**Figure 73: Chris F. van Raaphorst and Elisabeth Metsch van Raaphorst, about 1910**

Figure 74 shows the 1910 passenger list for Chris F., Elisabeth, and their two sons Harry and John.<sup>8</sup> They took a packet ship (Batavier Line) from the European Continent to London, and their arrival city in the New World was Montreal.

<sup>8</sup> There are errors in the list: for example, the surname is listed as “Raaphorst” instead of “van Raaphorst” and my grandfather was listed as a farmer.

LIST OF PASSENGERS  
 NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF ALIEN PASSENGERS

NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	ARRIVAL DATE	ARRIVAL PLACE	ARRIVAL TIME	ARRIVAL OFFICER	ARRIVAL AGENCY	ARRIVAL ADDRESS
James	31	M	Farmer	1910	Witch	10:00	Witch	Witch	Witch
Frank	36	M	Farmer	1910	Witch	10:00	Witch	Witch	Witch
James	32	M	Farmer	1910	Witch	10:00	Witch	Witch	Witch

Figure 74: Passenger list from the 1910 Atlantic crossing of the Chris F. van Raaphorsts

**Stage 3 (1912): Cross-border Migration to Detroit**

In 1912 my grandparents left Canada and took up residence in Detroit, Michigan. Having a second “family compound” gave later-arriving family members two possible places to “crash” while they were finding jobs and looking for independent lodging (son Harry continued to rent the house in Sarnia.)

Analysis of the many border crossing records for this family was an important part of my research. About 50 percent of the records I found were U.S. Department of Labor records and specifically listed an occupation or employer or both. Figure 75, showing a record for my uncle Chris G., is an example. These records were particularly valuable research tools. This one also lists his “landing” in New York in 1905, and the fact that he was last in Detroit in 1912.

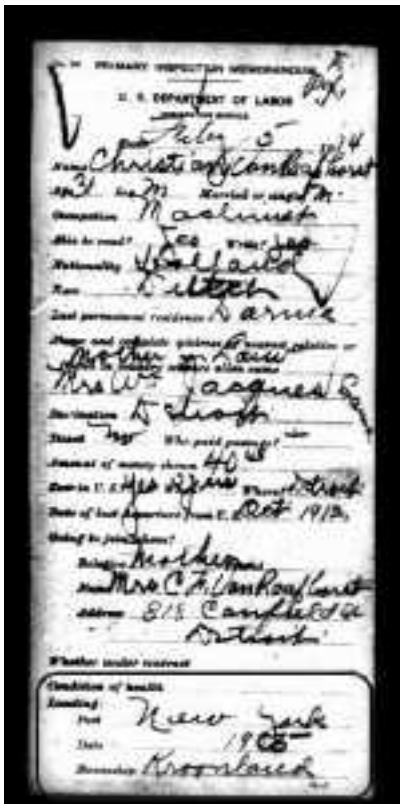


Figure 75: Border crossing record (1914) for Chris G. van Raaphorst

Stage 4 (1910-1920): Final Waves of Atlantic Crossings

The final waves of Atlantic crossings by other family members took place between late 1910 through 1920 (although no adult males in the family arrived in Michigan later than 1915). Some of these voyages involved not only east-to-west crossings (mostly Rotterdam to New York) but also west-to-east crossings! Figure 76 shows the list for my father's return trip (Rotterdam to New York) in 1914.

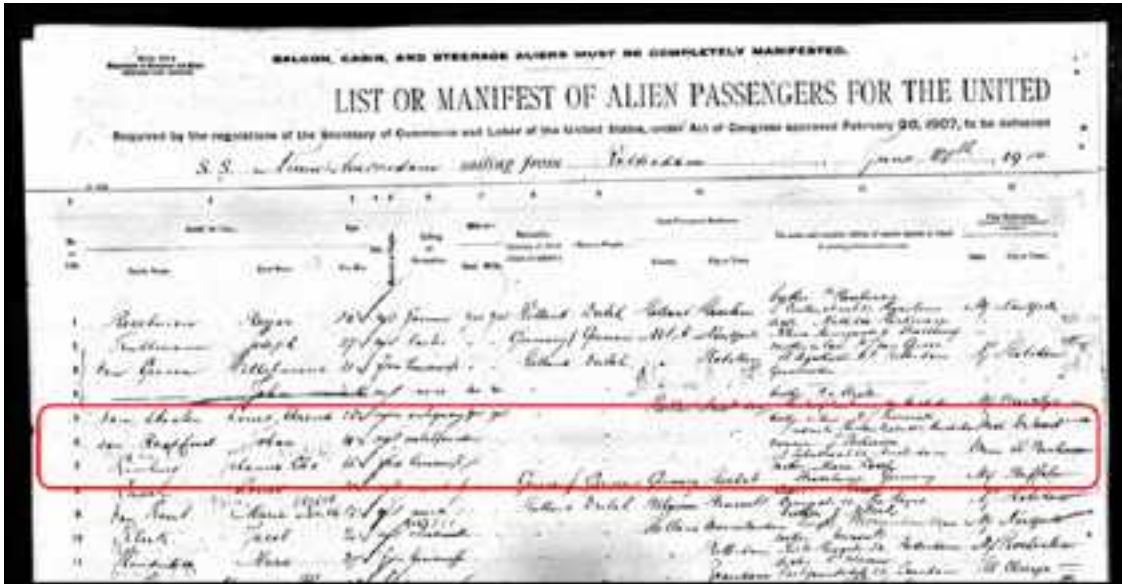


Figure 76: Passenger list (1914) from John van Raaphorst's trip "home" to Amsterdam

Had some family members gotten cold feet and decided to give it up and go home? Were they acting as representatives of the already migrated family members and being sent back to cheer the rest on? Or had

they just gotten the travel bug and decided a visit to extended family members and friends in Holland might be just the thing? Whatever the reason, it was good that they could scrape up the money for the trip, and the fact that they could shows that they were already achieving some degree of economic success in the New World!

I don't remember my father ever talking about his 1914 trip, and I probably will never know the answers to my questions, but passenger list records certainly reveal a large number of crossings in both directions.

The most "reluctant" member of the clan was Harry's wife Jansje, who came to Canada in 1911 to marry him, and then returned to Amsterdam by early 1912, when their first son was born. Harry continued to live and work in Canada and the United States, although he (apparently) made periodic trips back, because two additional children were born in Amsterdam. Jansje and the three children finally all came to the United States in 1920, although she and Harry continued to make periodic trips "home." The last passenger list I found for them was from 1957, and they both died within 10 years of that date. The siren call of Amsterdam must have been very strong.

Figure 77 shows the passenger list from Jansje and the children's voyage to the United States in 1920.

Year 1920, Arrival New York, New York; Manifest Serial 7715, 1917-1927; Bureau of Immigration; Line 26; Page Number 182. Accessed 14 Jul 2018. Record for Jansje Van Raaphorst (Raaphorst) and her 3 oldest children (Dirk F., John W. and Elizabeth).

NAME	AGE	SEX	STATUS	PLACE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL DATE	ARRIVAL TIME	ARRIVAL PLACE
WILCOFF, T. A.	34	M	Wife	HOLLAND	AMSTERDAM	1920		
WIESE, J.	11	F	Child	HOLLAND	AMSTERDAM	1920		
WIESE, J.	8	F	Child	HOLLAND	AMSTERDAM	1920		
WIESE, J.	5	M	Child	HOLLAND	AMSTERDAM	1920		

Figure 77: Portion of the passenger list (1920) for Harry's wife and children

### Evidence of Close Family Cooperation

Although I believe that it is possible to infer close family cooperation by "reading between the lines" of evidence already presented, I came across a single piece of evidence that makes the cooperative nature of the family migration quite clear. Figure 78 shows the Detroit City Directory "Vanraaphorst" listing for the year 1920. The two streets referenced, Sherwood and Concord, run adjacent to one another. This evidence, along with other records, shows that the family typically lived with one another for a while, and then either rented or bought houses of their own, often in the same neighborhood.

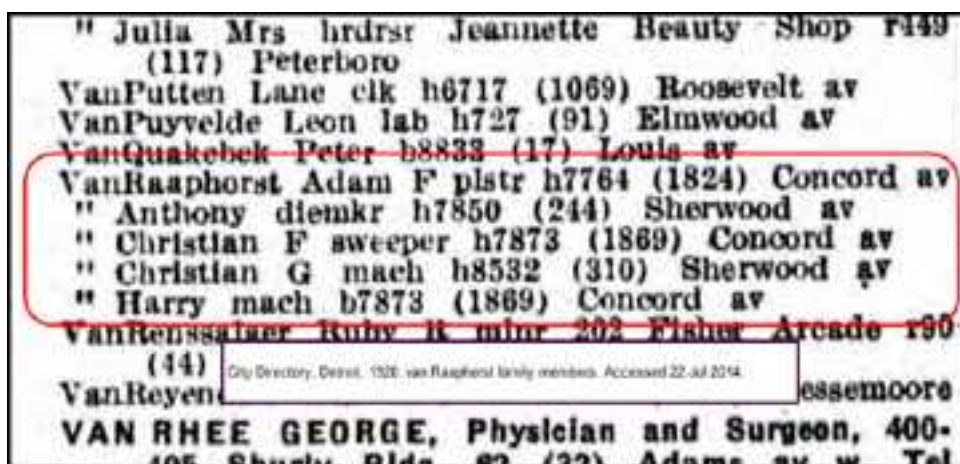


Figure 78: van Raaphorst family residence information in Detroit, 1920

### Immigration and Naturalization Summary

The following table lists the years of immigration and naturalization for key family members, as recorded in various U.S. census records, border crossing records, and naturalization records.<sup>9</sup>

Name	Immigration Date	Naturalization Date
Chris F.	1910-1912	1919
Bets	1914-1916	1926
Chris G.	1905-1914	1933
Fred	1911-1912	1936
Tony	1913	1920-1930
Harry	1910-1914	Bef. 1940
John	1910-1916	1921

### Evidence of Economic Success

The following chart provides evidence of the family's economic success, as documented in the 1940 census. I have purposely omitted my grandparents from the chart, since my grandmother died in 1939, and my grandfather was 88 and no longer working. The other family members had been in the country for at least 20 years, were probably at the peak of their careers, and spoke English fluently. United States Census Bureau statistics show that the average income in 1940 was \$956,<sup>10</sup> so these people did very well indeed by comparison!

Name	Age	Residence	Occupation	Annual Income
Bets (widowed)	59	Marysville (owned)	Housekeeper	Other
Chris G.	57	Detroit (owned, \$6000)	Tool and die maker	\$1900
Fred	56	Detroit (rented)	Plasterer	\$1040

<sup>9</sup> The date ranges indicate inconsistency among records consulted. Key border crossing collections (all available on Ancestry.com) were "Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895-1954," "Detroit Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists, 1905-1957," and "Michigan Passenger and Crew Lists, 1903-1965." I also consulted immigration information in 1920, 1930, and 1940 U.S. census records.

<sup>10</sup> United States Census Bureau, "Profile America Facts for Features, Special Edition, 1940 Census Records Release," <https://www.census.gov>.

Name	Age	Residence	Occupation	Annual Income
Tony	53	Detroit (owned, est. \$5000)	Stationary engineer, auto factory	\$2000
Harry	50	Port Huron (owned, \$5000)	Machinist, power plant	\$2080
John	44	Marysville (owned, \$9000)	Die sinker	\$3300 + Other

### Conclusion

I believe that my most recent research on the immigrant van Raaphorsts, combined with known family lore and prior research by my mother, supports my beliefs that the family had both “push” and “pull” motivators to migrate; that they had the educational background, strength of character, and cooperative instincts and skills to succeed; and that they did succeed in their new life in Michigan.

The following image (Figure 79) shows the only known family portrait, and not all the members are included.<sup>11</sup> It was probably taken in the autumn of 1913, after the first and part of the second wave of family members had arrived in the New World (it is not clear whether the location is Canada or the United States). The people are obviously wearing their “Sunday best.” Although I am only speculating, I believe it was probably taken to send back to the rest of the family still in the Netherlands to show them the group of family members that had already made the crossing and to encourage the rest to do the same. And, eventually, they all did!



Figure 79: Part of the Chris F. van Raaphorst family (probably 1913)

## Life in the New World

Keyword tags: ancestor, Canada, Detroit, Metsch, Michigan, Ontario, Port Huron, Sarnia, van Raaphorst

*Written by Nettie (Nan) Riedel van Raaphorst in 1989*

Chris (Christian G.) was the first van Raaphorst to come to the New World; he first worked in Canada for a steamship company (he was a gifted linguist and was working as an interpreter). He met and married his wife in Canada.

<sup>11</sup> Left to right in the photo: Tony, Lu (Chris G.'s wife), Chris G., Harry, Elisabeth (sitting), Chris F., Fred, Fred's wife Johanna and daughter Christina, and John. Family members not pictured are Bets and family (who were still in Amsterdam), Tony's wife Marie and their two oldest daughters (also in Amsterdam), Harry's wife Jansje and their oldest son (also in Amsterdam), and Fred and Johanna's baby daughter who was born in Canada (and who was perhaps considered too young for a formal portrait?).

On June 22, 1910, Opa, Opoe, Harry, and John set sail from Hull on a ship of the Allen Line. According to family lore, they were the first Dutch family living in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

When Opoe went shopping, the storekeeper let her find what she wanted, because he and she spoke different languages. One day she had John with her and confidently asked for *Twee kohlrappen*, holding up two fingers. The puzzled storekeeper aroused her impatience. To John she exclaimed in Dutch, "How stupid! What could be plainer than that: Twee kohlrappen!" The turnips must have been out of sight!

John didn't go to school in the New World until he took drafting in Detroit to achieve his ambition to become a "white-apron" master die sinker.



**Figure 80: John (center, tie, apron) and fellow die sinkers at Mueller Brass Co**



**Figure 81: Souvenir miniature anvil, made by John for a trade show**



**Figure 82: Souvenir miniature anvils, made by John**

Brother Harry was night clerk at the Hotel Vendome; John shined shoes there for 10 cents. And he emptied spittoons — a chore he and my mother could gag over together in memory!

(This similarity in their lives was a bond between John and my mother (Anna Schreiter Riedel); both knew well how the low-paid underdog felt. My mother earned, at age 13 — in 1885 — when she first went to Detroit to work, \$1.00 a week for the first year or so. That was for 24-hour a day service as maid and *au pair*. A year or so later she earned \$8.00, which Grandmother collected for family use. When she didn't collect the money, she "confiscated," as a matter of course, any clothes Mother took home with her. The most painful loss was her bustle, whose lack, Mother said, was a great embarrassment to her among her friends. Mother protested its loss, but Grandmother only said, "Well, you can earn more.")

Then John worked for a Scottish publisher for \$2.00 a week, lugging huge bundles of paper on his back for long distances because the publisher wouldn't pay the few cents streetcar fare. Later they worked — it was

often he and Harry together, and sometimes Opa — at the Round House, where he was once nearly pinned to a wall by an engine. I first learned that his mother's pet name for him was "Jopie" ("Yo-pee") when he told of her watching for his homecoming in the dark and storm, opening the door to look and calling, "Joop! Joopie!" I only saw John's mother once, but that story won my heart for her!

In Holland they rarely got fruit, which was grown for export or for people with money, so when bananas became available to him, he made himself sick on them. It was years before he cared much for bananas again.

Bets and the other sons in the family stayed for some years after in Holland; they were already married and had children. Bets and John had two daughters, Betty and Henderika, both born in Amsterdam; Fred's oldest child, Christina, was born in Amsterdam; and Tony's two oldest, Hendrika and Elizabeth (Betty) were born in Holland.

Harry went back to the Netherlands for several years: his three oldest, Chris, John, and Elisabeth, were born in Amsterdam. (Son Chris was the only van Raaphorst family member to go back and live in the Netherlands.)

Eventually, the whole family moved to the United States.

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# Chapter

# 4

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## Descendants

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Keyword tags: descendant, Dienst, Metsch, Riedel, van Raaphorst

This chapter lists the names and dates of birth (if known) of the children and some of the other descendants of the following people:

- Christiaan Frederik (Chris) van Raaphorst, born 24 March 1852 in Amsterdam, Netherlands
- His wife, Elisabeth Johanna Maria Metsch, born 26 June 1854 in Amsterdam, Netherlands

The information is provided as an overview and roadmap for family members and genealogists; it is not meant to duplicate more detailed information recorded in the van Raaphorst-Metsch tree in Family Tree Maker (and other sources).

### Children of Chris van Raaphorst and Elisabeth Metsch

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Keyword tags: Bartels, de Groot, descendant, Dienst, Immig, Jacques, Metsch, Ponger, Riedel, van Heusden, van Raaphorst

Following are the children of Christiaan Frederik (Chris) van Raaphorst and Elisabeth Johanna Maria Metsch.

1. Elisabeth Johanna Maria (Bets) van Raaphorst (married John Immig), born 8 Jan 1881 in Amsterdam
2. Christiaan Gottfried (Chris) van Raaphorst (married Lulu Jacques), born 31 Jan 1883 in Amsterdam
3. Adam Friedrich (Fred) van Raaphorst (married Marie Bartels), born 18 Apr 1884 in Amsterdam
4. Antonius Theodorus (Tony) van Raaphorst (married Marie van Heusden and Betty Ponger), born 16 Sep 1887 in Amsterdam
5. Hendricus Marinus (Harry) van Raaphorst (married Jansje (sometimes called Jane) de Groot), born 22 Apr 1891 in Amsterdam
6. Wilhelmus Leonardus (Willem), born 24 Sep 1893 in Amsterdam, Netherlands; died before the family emigrated
7. **Johan Nicolaas (John) van Raaphorst (our ancestor)** (married Johanna (Jo) Dienst and Nettie Augusta (Nan) Riedel), born 19 Sep 1896 in Amsterdam

#### Photos

Left to right in the photo below: Tony, Lu (Chris G.'s wife), Chris G., Harry, Elisabeth (sitting), Chris F., Fred, Fred's wife Johanna and daughter Christina, and John. Family members not pictured are Bets and family (who were still in Amsterdam), Tony's wife Marie and their two oldest daughters (also in Amsterdam), Tony's wife Marie and their two oldest daughters (also in Amsterdam). Harry's wife Jansje and their oldest son (also in Amsterdam), and Fred and Johanna's baby daughter who was born in Canada (and who was perhaps considered too young for a formal portrait?).



**Figure 83: Chris and Elisabeth van Raaphorst and family (about 1913)**



**Figure 84: Bets van Raaphorst Immig, 100 years old (1981)**



**Figure 85: John van Raaphorst, age 19 (about 1913)**



**Figure 86: John (youngest) and Bets (oldest), about 1980**



**Figure 87: John van Raaphorst and Johanna Dienst**



**Figure 88: John van Raaphorst and Nan Riedel**



**Figure 89: John van Raaphorst and Nan Riedel (about 1939)**



**Figure 90: John and Chris van Raaphorst and Nan Riedel (about 1970)**

## **Grandchildren of Chris van Raaphorst and Elisabeth Metsch**

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Keyword tags: Bartels, Colwell, de Groot, descendant, descendants, Dienst, Finch, Hutton, Immig, Jacques, Johnson, Lamont, Lothamer, Metsch, Pesch, Peutrell, Pomp, Ponger, Raup, Riedel, Ruper, Rutka, Shurtleff, Trumble, Turrell, van Bekkum, van Genderen, van Heusden, van Raaphorst, van Reesch, Veen

### **Children of Elisabeth Johanna Maria (Bets) van Raaphorst and John (Pipey) Immig**

1. Elizabeth Johanna Maria (Betty) Immig (married Ernest Peutrell), born 1903 in Amsterdam
2. Henderika Johanna Immig (married Jack Trumble), born 1905 in Amsterdam



**Figure 91: Henderika Immig**



**Figure 92: Betty Immig**



**Figure 93: Betty Immig Peutrell**

**Children of Christiaan Gottfried (Chris) van Raaphorst and Lulu Jacques**

1. Christian Paul van Raaphorst, born 1912 in Canada (died at about one month of age)
2. Leonard Francis (Len) van Raaphorst, born 1917



**Figure 94: Len van Raaphorst and Nan Riedel van Raaphorst (1987)**

**Children of Adam Friedrich (Fred) van Raaphorst and Johanna Maria Bartels**

1. Christina Fredrika van Raaphorst (married Harry Turrell, Walter Rutka Sr. and Elwood Shurtleff), born 1907 in the Netherlands
2. Johanna Maria van Raaphorst (married John Wesley Colwell, William Pesch and Stewart Lamont), born 1911 in Canada
3. Frances van Raaphorst (married Unknown Raup, Unknown Ruper and William Pesch), born 1916 in Michigan



**Figure 95: Christina, Bets and John van Raaphorst (about 1980)**



**Figure 96: Nan, John and Frances van Raaphorst (about 1980)**

**Children of Antonius Theodorus (Tony, Ton) van Raaphorst and Marie van Heusden**

1. Hendrika Johanna van Raaphorst (married John Christian Ponger I), born 1910 in Amsterdam
2. Elizabeth Johanna Maria van Raaphorst (married William van Reesch), born 1912 in the Netherlands
3. Bernard Anthony (Ben) van Raaphorst (married Darleen Martha (Dar) Lothamer), born 1917 in Michigan
4. Anthony Peter van Raaphorst (married Rosemary Rabe), born 1926 in Michigan



**Figure 97: Hendrika van Raaphorst Ponger, John and Betty (about 1980)**

**Children of Hendrikus Marinus (Harry, Hank, Henk) van Raaphorst and Jansje de Groot**

1. Christian Frederik (Chris) van Raaphorst (married Arnolda (Nollie) van Bekkum and Hetty Pomp), born 1912 in Amsterdam
2. John W van Raaphorst (married Rena G van Genderen), born 1915 in Amsterdam
3. Elizabeth van Raaphorst, born 1919 in Amsterdam
4. Mary Jane van Raaphorst (married Charles Veen), born 1923 in Michigan
5. Louise van Raaphorst (married W. Edward (Ed) Hutton), born 1926

**Children of Johan Nicolaas (John) van Raaphorst and Johanna Dienst**

1. William John (Bill) van Raaphorst (married Helen Ruth Finch), born 1918 in Michigan

### Children of Johan Nicolaas (John) van Raaphorst and Nettie Augusta (Nan) Riedel

1. Anna Louise van Raaphorst (married Richard Harold (Dick) Johnson), born 1940 in Michigan

## Descendants of John van Raaphorst and Jo Dienst

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Keyword tags: Czetli, descendant, Dewhirst, Dienst, Finch, Kaufman, Metsch, O'Shaughnessy, Riedel, Sagan, van Raaphorst, Van Raaphorst, Whitney

Following is a list of the descendants of John van Raaphorst and Johanna Dienst.

### Child of John van Raaphorst and Johanna Dienst

1. William John (Bill) van Raaphorst (married Helen Rose Finch), born 31 Oct 1918 in Michigan



Figure 98: Johanna and Bill van Raaphorst



Figure 99: Bill Van Raaphorst, World War II



**Figure 100: Helen Finch**



**Figure 101: Bill Van Raaphorst**



**Figure 102: Bill and Helen Van Raaphorst (1992)**

#### **Grandchildren of John van Raaphorst and Johanna Dienst**

1. Richard William (Dick) Van Raaphorst (married Joanne Ruth Whitney), born 10 Dec 1942 in Michigan
2. Robert John (Bob) Van Raaphorst (married Lynn Louise Kaufman), born 27 Dec 1946 in Michigan
3. Ronald Guy (Ron) Van Raaphorst, born 27 Nov 1953 in Michigan



**Figure 103: Bob and Lynn Van Raaphorst (2011)**

#### **Great-grandchildren of John van Raaphorst and Johanna Dienst**

1. Jeffrey Richard (Jeff) Van Raaphorst (married Christine Dewhirst), born 7 Dec 1963 in Ohio
2. William Whitney (Bill) Van Raaphorst, born 12 Nov 1975 in California
3. Michael Anthony (Mike) Van Raaphorst (married Alison Czetli), born 27 Apr 1978 in California
4. Robert Frederick (Rob) Van Raaphorst (married Karen Elesha O'Shaughnessy), born 4 Nov 1977 in Michigan
5. Thomas William (Tom) Van Raaphorst (married Rebekah (Bekah) Sagan), born 10 Apr 1982 in Pennsylvania



**Figure 104: Rob and Karen Van Raaphorst family (Taylor, Lexie, Jack) (2012)**



**Figure 105: Tom and Bekah Van Raaphorst family (Emma) (2012)**



**Figure 106: Emma and Thomas Van Raaphorst (2014)**

#### **Great-great-grandchildren of John van Raaphorst and Johanna Dienst**

1. Jacob Jeffrey (Jake) Van Raaphorst, born 10 Dec 1990 in Arizona
2. Haley Christine Van Raaphorst, born 14 Dec 1992 in Arizona
3. Cade Carleton Van Raaphorst, born 17 Jul 1996 in Arizona
4. Michael Anthony Van Raaphorst II, born 13 Apr 2006 in Los Angeles
5. Caroline Alison Van Raaphorst, born 21 Feb 2008 in Ohio
6. Grant Van Raaphorst, born 3 Dec 2009 in New Jersey
7. Taylor Jacquelyn Van Raaphorst, born 20 Nov 2008 in Virginia
8. Alexis Cecelia (Lexie) Van Raaphorst, born 20 Nov 2008 in Virginia
9. Jackson Patrick (Jack) Van Raaphorst, born 25 Jan 2011 in Virginia
10. Emma Lynn Van Raaphorst, born 10 Mar 2012 in Virginia
11. Thomas Robert Van Raaphorst, born 8 Sep 2013 in Virginia

### **Descendants of John van Raaphorst and Nettie (Nan) Riedel**

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Keyword tags: Blomquist, descendant, descendants, Dienst, Hunter, Johnson, Livengood, Margulis, Metsch, Riedel, Tichenor, van Raaphorst

Following is a list of the descendants of John van Raaphorst and Nan Riedel.

#### **Child of John van Raaphorst and Nan Riedel**

1. Anna Louise van Raaphorst (married Richard Harold Johnson), born 12 Dec 1940 in Michigan



**Figure 107: John and Anna van Raaphorst (1944)**



**Figure 108: Anna and Dick Johnson (1998)**



**Figure 109: Anna van Raaphorst in Casablanca (2012)**

#### **Grandchildren of John van Raaphorst and Nan Riedel**

1. Ellen Margaret Anne Elizabeth van Raaphorst Johnson (married Richard Hayward (Rick) Livengood), born 14 Sep 1965 in California
2. Timothy Richard Nikolaas John van Raaphorst (Tim) Johnson (married Colette Ruth Hunter and Elizabeth Anne (Liz) Tichenor, significant other to Clara Margulis), born 23 Dec 1966 in California
3. Gillian Allison Catherine Anne van Raaphorst (Jill) Johnson (married Michael Henry (Mike) Blomquist), born 3 Nov 1975 in California

#### **Great-grandchildren of John van Raaphorst and Nan Riedel**

1. Hayward Matthew Johnson (Matthew) Livengood, born 17 Jul 1996 in California
2. Miranda Anne Johnson Livengood, born 23 Jun 1999 in California
3. Archer Michael Richard Henry Blomquist, born 29 Dec 2005 in Minnesota
4. Helena Allison Anna Margaret Blomquist, born 1 Nov 2007 in Minnesota

#### **Photos of John and Nan's grandchildren and great-grandchildren**



**Figure 110: Livengoods in Waimea Canyon (2012)**



**Figure 111: Tim Johnson and Clara Margulis (2011)**



**Figure 112: Blomquists in Tahoe (2011)**

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# Chapter

# 5

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## Keywords

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Keyword tags: keyword, metadata, tag

### Category keywords

- Alemanni
- Almelo
- Amsterdam
- ancestor
- Arioivistus
- Baden-Württemberg
- Canada
- castle
- Catholic Church
- De Horsten
- descendant
- Detroit
- Eikenhorst estate
- emigration
- Enkhuizen
- estate
- family
- Gallic Wars
- genealogy
- Germany
- goat
- Haarlem
- Hague
- Hessigheim
- Hilversum
- horse
- horst
- immigration
- Indonesia
- information source
- Jordaen
- Julius Caesar
- keyword
- Lisse
- Lutheran Church
- metadata

- Michigan
- migration
- naturalization
- Netherlands
- News From Nan
- nobility
- North Holland
- occupation
- Ontario
- pet
- Port Huron
- Raaphorst estate
- record
- reference
- Sarnia
- Sassenheim
- shield
- South Holland
- Suevi
- Sumatra
- tag
- Ter Horst estate
- United States
- van Oldenbarneveldt Street
- Wassenaar
- website
- Westerpark
- Willem III
- Wüttemberg

**Surname (last name) keywords**

- Amman
- Barendsen
- Bartels
- Bekker
- Biessenaar
- Bisson
- Blomquist
- Colwell
- Czetli
- de Groot
- Dewhirst
- Dienst
- Finch
- Fluitier
- Grossmeier
- Haeussler
- Heijndriks
- Holbein
- Hongerer

- Hunter
- Hutton
- Immig
- Jacques
- Johnson
- Kaufman
- Kuyper
- Lamont
- Livengood
- Lothamer
- Lynch
- Margulis
- Meijer
- Metsch
- Metzsch
- Moesch
- Monderen
- Naegele
- Niemoeller
- Niks
- Pesch
- Pomp
- Ponger
- Peutrell
- Raup
- Riedel
- Ruper
- Rutgers
- Rutka
- Sagan
- Shurtleff
- Sluijters
- Soetemeer
- Tichenor
- Tromp
- Trumble
- Turrell
- van Beijeren
- van Bekkum
- van der Schilde
- van Genderen
- van Heusden
- van Nortveen
- van Oldenbarneveldt
- van Raaphorst
- Van Raaphorst
- van Raephorst
- van Reesch
- van Tongeren
- Veen

- Veigel
- Whitney
- Worster

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# Chapter

# 6

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## For More Information

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Keyword tags: information source, News From Nan, reference, website

Following are references to additional information about the van Raaphorst-Metsch family, and general information about the locations and events described in this book.

### Information About the van Raaphorst Family

#### News From Nan website

[www.newsfromnan.com](http://www.newsfromnan.com)

News From Nan is a family history supersite dedicated to the memory of Nettie (Nan) Riedel van Raaphorst. The website owners, developers, and content creators are Anna van Raaphorst Johnson and Richard (Dick) Johnson. The site has been in existence since 1998.

News From Nan is the place where we post current information about ourselves and our family, as well as family history and genealogy. We like to think of it as a place where our family's current events and past history come together.

PDF versions of this book and various genealogy reports (for example, ancestor reports, timelines, and media reports) are available on the News From Nan website.

#### Anna's Informal Family History Collection

These binders include photos, copies of original records, letters, newspaper clippings, original writings, and family recipes.

#### van Raaphorst-Riedel Family Tree

Family Tree Maker / Ancestry.com. Detailed genealogical information about Anna van Raaphorst's Riedel-Schreiter and van Raaphorst-Metsch families. A portion of the tree has been published as an interactive ancestor report on the News From Nan website.

### General Information

#### General Migration Resources

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## Netherlands

### Archives, Libraries, and Migration Records

*WieWasWie*. Dutch Genealogy Records. <https://www.wiewaswie.nl/home/>.

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## Canada

### Archives, Libraries, and Migration Records

*Ancestry.com* [database on-line]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. <http://www.ancestry.com>. Key Collections:

- Census records: "1891 Census of Canada" and "1911 Census of Canada"
- Death records: "Canada, GenWeb Cemetery Index" and "Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938 and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947"
- Marriage records: "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801-1928"
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