

Du Moulin ~ Van Der Meulen
Vermeule Family

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IN THE SOUTHERN NETHERLANDS, from the Thirteenth to the Sixteenth centuries, it was not unusual for prominent families to make use of two names. There were in that bilingual country aristocratic families who used their French or Walloon names at Court, and a Flemish translation of the same in business. The ancient records show that the names of our title were used interchangeably until, as followers of William the Silent, they rebelled against the tyranny of Philip II of Spain, in 1567. Thereafter the French du Moulin was dropped by the Protestant branches and the more democratic Flemish name used exclusively. We find van der Meulen in use at Antwerp, however, at least a generation before 1460.

The family originated at Moulin, "the mill of the Bourbons," in Bourbonnaise, as its name implies, and the Flemings called that place Meulen, consequently van der Meulen resulted. It was contracted to Vermeulen, but, the final "n" being silent, was dropped by the branch that came to America, who used only "Vermeule"¹ after 1600.

Researches indicate clearly that from the beginning of our record, in the Thirteenth century, the family was related to the Houses of the Dukes of Bourbon and the Dukes of Burgundy, historic ancient families of France. In confirmation of this a record in the British Museum shows that the great Marie Therese, Queen of Austria-Hungary, who was a descendant of those Houses, ennobled Phillippe Emanuel Joseph Vermoelen, in 1749, because she had the arms of Vermeulen as one of the quarters of her armorial bearings.

These ancient arms are described as "*e'cartele, 1 and 4 in blue - 3 silver fers de Moline; 2 and 3 d. or, a blue millstone (Cimier: a blue millstone) between golden wings.*" There were other bearings awarded from time to time, as successive scions of the family were knighted; six or seven in all, but we find on the splendid tomb² of Adrian Van der Meulen, d. Antwerp, 1462, the 3 silver fers de Moline, and gold mill-wings; and these, with the blue millstone, occur repeatedly in the arms of various branches of the family, including the Zee-land line. The millwings have sometimes been mistaken for a St. Andrews Cross, which they much resemble as carved on the tombs.

When the Netherlands came under the rule of the Duke of Burgundy, Philip the Bold, between 1385 and 1400, the du Moulin's came to Antwerp to reside. From that time down to 1576 we find them high in favor with their kinsmen, the great Dukes, as well as that later descendant and successor, Charles V, the Emperor. William the Silent, Prince of Orange, who later became the great champion of religious freedom and manhood rights, was likewise in favor with the Emperor, who held Court at Brussels. After the abdication of Charles V, and the revolt against Philip II, the van

¹ The Netherlandish pronunciation is like *fairmerla*.

² This tomb is in the Facon's church at Antwerp.

Vermeule Family

Cornelius C. Vermeule

der Meulen-Vermeule family, in Zeeland, at Antwerp and in Holland, continued to enjoy the friendship and favor of the House of Orange-Nassau. This revolt, however, cost them dearly. They were forced to leave their ancient and prosperous city of Antwerp, sacrifice much of their fortune, and scatter to Utrecht, Leyden and the cities of Zeeland. Nevertheless they soon again prospered in their new homes, and the ships of the brothers Andre, Lord of Millighem and Ranst, and Daniel, Lord of Anseghem, still sailed the seven seas.

These two brothers, then looked upon as the heads of the whole family, were prominent figures during those troublous times, as will be observed from the notes following the tenth generation. For centuries many of the family became magistrates or other high officials in the cities. Several occupied high places in the Catholic church before the Reformation. The list of their friends and kinsmen during the period of the rise and fall of the Dutch Republic reads like persons in the pages of Motley. David Balfour, the Scottish Colonel, who fought at the siege of Antwerp, afterward stood sponsor for Andries van der Meulen, at the baptism of a grandchild. Philip van Marnix, Lord of St. Aldegonde, was their close friend and the powerful and wealthy Burgomaster, Anthony Van Stralen, of Antwerp, who suffered martyrdom with Counts Egmont and Horn, was a kinsman, as is witnessed by the quartering of their coats-of-arms. In order to fully connect them by generations with these historic events, I shall first trace the elder line through ten generations and then return to the eighth, where the Zeeland and American line branches off. The elder line is mainly taken from the Netherlandish publication "Navorscher," the author of which record appears to have been the cultured Andries van der Meulen, Lord of Millighem and Ranst, of the tenth generation. The manuscript came from the hand of his descendant, the Baron du Tour van Bellinchave, and is here translated from the French. The dates and notes in parenthesis have been added from other sources by the author.

THE ELDER LINE

First Generation (Ca. 1253-1323): Pierre du Moulin, Esquire, m. Mlle. Jenne Doisi.

They left a son.

Second Generation (Ca. 1286-1356): Pierre du Moulin, Esquire, m. Mlle. Marie de Courcelles. They left a son.

Third Generation (Ca. 1319-1389): Nicolas du Moulin, Esquire, m. Mlle. Jenne de Haulthy, living in 1340. They left two sons.

Fourth Generation (Ca. 1352-1422): Pierre du Moulin, Esquire, m. Catherine de Cambrogne. Jean du Moulin, Knight, married Isabeau de Bullinghien. They left four sons: Jean, Pierre, Nicol and Stassart (Cornelis Jans Van der Meulen, who became a citizen of Middelburg, Zeeland, in 1466, is believed to have been a son of this latter Jean, or Jan).

Fifth Generation (Ca. 1385-1455): Pierre du Moulin, Esquire, m. Marie de Surcamp.

Vermeule Family

Cornelius C. Vermeule

They left two sons, Guillaume and Jean.

Sixth Generation (Ca 1418-1496): Guillaume du Moulin, Knight, noble of Louis XI, King of France, m. Louise de Carondelet, Lady of Aubois. They left a son, Jacques. A Jean, in 1495, was Canon of the Cathedral church named "The Dom at Utrecht" where he is entombed.

Seventh Generation (Ca. 1451-1521): Jacques du Moulin, Noble of his Majesty, the King of France, m. Lady Jenne Moen, and they left Jean and Emilie. (Independent research indicates that there should be added at least two other sons Pierre, or Pieter, Knight, Schepen of Antwerp, and Cornelis.)

Eighth Generation (Ca. 1484-1554): Jean du Moulin, Knight, m. Catherine Van Aerssens. They, had Jean and Andre. Emilie du Moulin was Lady of Honor to the Empress, wife of the Emperor Charles V.

Ninth Generation (Ca. 1517-1587): Jean du Moulin, Knight, m. Elizabeth Legers. They left Anne, Andre, Sara, Daniel and Jean. (We find other records showing that this marriage took place in Antwerp Cathedral, Dec. 3, 1545, and was a splendid function.)

Tenth Generation (Ca. 1547-1617): Andre du Moulin, Knight, Lord of Millingham and Ranst, b. 1549; d. Jan. 2, 1611, Councillor to the Duke of Anjou, Deputy of the Province of Brabant at the Assembly of the States General, m., Oct. 16, 1583, at Antwerp, Lady Susanne de Basentin, called de Malapert. He changed his name "du Moulin" to Flemish van der Meulen.

Daniel van der Meulen, Knight, Lord of Anseghem, died 1600, m. Hester de la Faille, sister of the Baron de Nevele.

Here we have the "Navorscher" record. The two brothers, Andre, afterward known as Andries van der Meulen, and Daniel, were high in the counsels of the Prince of Orange. It was at the instance of the Prince that Andries became councillor to the base Duke of Anjou. There is still in Holland a fine, chased silver cup given by the City of Antwerp as a testimonial to his great services to the city during the religious war. Daniel was banker and executor to both the mother and the widow of Saint Aldegonde, Burgomaster of Antwerp and friend of the Prince of Orange. He conducted extensive commercial ventures for his brother, himself and others, mostly their relatives. He was Ambassador to Denmark and, in 1598, was asked to arbitrate between the Spanish rulers and the States of the Netherlands. It is evident he enjoyed the confidence of both. Rammelman Elzevier writing of him in 1857, says: "His life was rich, his knowledge much."

THE ZEELAND LINE

The line of descent from the eleventh to the twenty-first generation, inclusive, is by actual record of parentage, including place and date of birth, or baptism, but this is not true of the generations from the eighth to the tenth, for which the records are

Vermeule Family

Cornelius C. Vermeule

meagre. This connection is buttressed by sufficient recorded collateral evidence, however, such as identity in coats-of-arms, a marked repetition of given names, records from the books of accounts of Daniel, Lord of Anseghem, etc. As a curious instance connecting the elder and the American lines, Adrian Vermeule, who came to America in 1693, sealed the town documents of Harlem, N.Y., where he was "voorleser" and town clerk, with his own seal, which bore in part the arms of Anthony van Stralen, Burgomaster of Antwerp, and a martyr to the cause of religious liberty. Now the tomb of Daniel, Lord of Anseghem, bears as a quartering those same van Stralen Arms.

Eighth Generation (Ca. 1484-1554): Cornelius van der Meulen, son of Lord Jacques and Lady Jenne (Moen) du Moulin (wife's name unknown), had sons: Jan, Adrian and Nicholas (b. at Antwerp). Children of all three of these sons are found later in Zeeland.

Ninth Generation: Jan van der Meulen, b. 1515, lived at Antwerp, where he had children between 1540 and 1565, viz., Cornelis, Symon, Jacques (or Jacob), Marten, Janneke, Elizabeth, Andries and Hans. He left Antwerp about 1567 and went to Ghent, thence to Arnemuiden, in Zeeland, about 1574, where he had a daughter, Sara, born. His son, Jacob, had a daughter b. at Flushing just after the Water-Beggars captured the town, in 1572. His son, Andries, became councillor, magistrate and treasurer of Middleburg, a city of the Prince of Orange, with whom this branch of the family was evidently influential, as was the elder line.

Tenth Generation: Cornelis Jans van der Meulen, b. 1540, at Antwerp, became a citizen of Arnemuiden, Zeeland, in 1577. His children were Jan and Cornelis. It is thought that he came to Zeeland with the Protestant Water-Beggars, but later returned to Catholicism and to Antwerp. The tomb of Cornelis "Vermeulen," in Antwerp Cathedral, is believed to be his.

Eleventh Generation: Jan Cornelissen Vermeule, b. at Ghent, 1567; d. "ter Goes" (at Goes) 1622; m. 2nd., at Goes, 1594, Elizabeth Gillis, and m., 3rd, at Goes, Grietjen Gooszens, 1599, and, 4th, Tanneke Cornelis, July 3, 1608. By his fourth wife he had: Cornelis, Adriana, Tanneke, Maycken, Janneke.

Twelfth Generation: Cornelis Jans Vermeule, b. at Goes, May 22, 1609, m. there, May 5, 1630, Susanneke Pouwels Gerrits. They had Cathelynken, bapt. Dec. 19, 1632. He m., 2nd, at Goes, Susanneke de Wint, Dec. 26, 1633. They had Jan Cornelissen (so bapt. and always so called), bapt. Aug. 20, 1634, and Susanneke, bapt. June 3, 1635. The family moved to Flushing, or Vlissingen, about this time, and there two other sons, William and Cornelis, were born.

Thirteenth Generation: Jan Cornelissen Vermeule, bapt. Aug. 20, 1634; d. Feb. 13, 1713, at Vlissingen; m. there, about 1657, Janneke Regot (Rigault). They had Cornelis, Adrian, Jan and Magdaleentje. (Records lost when city burned in 1809). Jan C. was Elder of the church for 27 years, from 1686 to his death in 1713. He

Vermeule Family

Cornelius C. Vermeule

owned many houses and was a well-to-do burgher. His son, Jan, was a Sergeant in the army and was killed in the French war, about the same time that he himself died.

THE FAMILY IN AMERICA

• Fourteenth Generation: Adrian Vermeule, b. at Vlissingen 1665; d. at Bergen, New Jersey, 1735; son of Jan Cornelissen and Janneke (Regot) Vermeule; m., 1st, at Vlissingen, May 30, 1690, Dinah de Swarte. They had one child. Both mother and child died before 1693. Adrian came to America that year with his cousin, Rev. Guillaume Bertholf, for a visit. He had intended to return to Zeeland, but decided to remain. In 1699 he became "voorleser" and town clerk at Harlem, N.Y. In 1708 he became voorleser at Bergen, N.J., retaining that office for 27 years. He m., 2nd, at Bergen, June 13, 1708, Christina, dau. of Frederick Tomasse Cadmus. They had b. at Bergen, Frederick, Leuntje, Cornelius. Just before his death, in 1735, Adrian bought a plantation at the Blue Hills, now near Plainfield, for his two sons.

Fifteenth Generation: Cornelius Vermeule, b. at Bergen, April 2, 1716; d. March 15, 1784, at the Blue Hills; m., 1740, Mary, dau. of Ide Marselis and his wife Ariaentje Braes (alias Van Deusen). Cornelius was a member of the first legally elected Provincial Congress which met at Trenton, Oct. 3, 1775. Also he was elected July 28, 1775, a member of the Somerset County Committee of Observation. He was for many years an Elder of the Raritan (now Somerville) Dutch Reformed Church. Children: Adrian, Gerrity, Eder, Frederick, Christine, Cornelius and Dinah. Of these children Adrian was a minute man and despatch rider, captured at Quibbletown, Jan. 7, 1777, and died a prisoner in New York, March 9, following. Eder was a Lieutenant in the First Essex Militia Regiment; Frederick a private, and Cornelius a private, but late in the war Captain of the First Somerset Regiment. Frederick later became judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset county.

• Sixteenth Generation: Cornelius Vermeule, b. at Blue Hills, June 30, 1757; d. Oct. 11, 1824; m., Feb. 14, 1781, Elizabeth, dau. of Col. Dirck Middagh, of the First Somerset Regiment. She was a descendant of Sarah Rapelje, the first white child born at New Amsterdam. The wife of Col. Middagh was Margaret Davis. Cornelius Vermeule retained the Captaincy of his Company until 1802, and was always known as "Captain." He was an Elder of the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church. Children: Richard,³ Dinah, Cornelius C. [author of this article],⁴ Margaret,⁵

³ Thomas Lloyd Vermeule, a son of Dr. Richard, was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of California in 1848, and then a State Senator.

⁴ Dr. Edmund C. Vermeule, U.S.N., a son of Rev. Cornelius C., served with distinction in the Civil War.

⁵ Margaret m. John Clarkson and had Cornelius V. and Frederick, well-known physicians of New York City. It will be observed that the professional record of the sons and grandsons of Captain Cornelius and Elizabeth

Vermeule Family

Cornelius C. Vermeule

Frederick, Isaac Davis, Judith Middagh,⁶ John Marselis, Field and Warren. Of these Richard and Cornelius studied medicine with the famous Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia; Field and Warren at Columbia College, New York. Cornelius C., in 1814 was a member of the Faculty of Rutgers College; also studied theology and became pastor of the Harlem Reformed Church, where his great-grandfather, Adrian, had served before him. All ten children were liberally educated.

Seventeenth Generation: Isaac Davis Vermeule, b. Warren Plains (North Plainfield), Sept. 7, 1793; d. Dec. 7, 1823; m. Jan. 3, 1818, Mary, dau. of Dennis and Mary (Boice) Field. Children: Dennis Field, Adrian and Mary Elizabeth.

Eighteenth Generation: Adrian Vermeule, b. at Warren Plains⁷ (now North Plainfield), Oct. 13, 1820; d. at Raritan Landing, May 5, 1903; m., June 3, 1852, Maria, dau. of Nicholas and Cornelia (Beekman) Veghte. Children: Georgianna, Dennis Field, Cornelius Clarkson, Cornelia and Adrian. Adrian Vermeule, Sr., was long an Elder of the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church and, later, of the Second Reformed Church at New Brunswick.

Nineteenth Generation: Cornelius Clarkson Vermeule, b. at Raritan Landing, Sept. 5, 1858; m., June 7, 1888, Carolyn Carpenter, dau. of Col. Horatio Blake and Alida (Carpenter) Reed, of Newburgh, N.Y. Col. Reed of the 5th U.S. Artillery and 22nd New York Cavalry, served with marked distinction through the Civil War, being four times brevetted for gallant and meritorious services. Children: Cornelius Clarkson and Warren Carpenter.

Twentieth Generation: Cornelius Clarkson Vermeule, Jr., b. in New York City, Sept. 26, 1895; m., Dec. 3, 1921, Catherine Sayre, dau. of Benjamin Sayre and Adelaide Cornelia (Adams) Comstock. Major Cornelius C. Vermeule served as Lieutenant and later Captain of the Machine Gun Company of the 320th Regiment, 80th Division, in the World War, and was cited "for his great courage and daring" at the battle of the Meuse-Argonne, during which offensive he was in the line for three successive periods. Earlier he was in action in Artois and at St. Mihiel. Thus, like many of the eleven generations preceding, he fought the battles of democracy, and on the same fields where the first eight generations of the line had fought valiantly under the standard of the Dukes of Burgundy, the foremost exponents of feudal autocracy.

Twenty-first Generation: Cornelius Clarkson Vermeule, 3rd., son of Cornelius C. and Catherine (Comstock) Vermeule, b. at Orange N.J., Aug. 10, 1925.

(Middagh) Vermeule was notable.

⁶ Judith m. Rev. James Phillips of Chapel Hill University, N.C., and had sons: Charles, a Professor there; Samuel F., Solicitor-General of the United States, and a daughter, Cornelia Spencer, LL.D., author, historian, and a woman who exerted much good influence during the reconstruction period in North Carolina.

⁷ So called by Capt. Cornelius Vermeule between the Revolution and his death, and so he dated his letters.

Vermeule Family

Cornelius C. Vermeule

Historical Notes and Comments (July 1927, *extract*)

Requests come to us with some frequency to publish long family lines in the PROCEEDINGS. Unless the proposition is according to our rules concerning genealogical articles we are unable to comply. Our space is intended to be devoted chiefly to historical and biographical subjects connected with the State, or to other chief items of general interest than to mere genealogy. In this number we do print two genealogical articles because, in the one instance, (the Probasco family) an important old family line is shown for the first time accurately; that it is derived from an ancestor who located in Brazil. The article also stops when carried down to a point where present descendants may readily find their connection with it. In the other case (the Vermeule line), the special interest is in showing how careful research abroad has succeeded in carrying a family name back some 650 years, and how a respected surname has become, by changes, what it is today. This also does not range out into all branches of descendants, but keeps to one line only. A short early history of a family, if not elsewhere published, is always acceptable, but very lengthy ones we can rarely use.