

Jan Pietersen Haring, 1633-1683

Sightings and Connections

*Hoorn, New Amsterdam, New York, and New Jersey*

Firth Haring Fabend

*Father of Rockland County*

Jan Pietersen Haring can be considered the father of Rockland County. In the early 1680s he was the leader of a group of ten families who acquired the Tappan Patent, 16,000 acres in today's Rockland and Bergen counties, and he was ultimately responsible for the settling and peopling of the two counties. His children and grandchildren and their children married into scores of other families and populated the communities within the Patent

from West Nyack to Blauvelt, Orangeburg to Tappan, Sparkill, and Piermont, Old Tappan to Rockleigh, Harrington Park, Northvale, Norwood, and Closter, Dumont to Hackensack, and so on. As his descendants over the generations dispersed, they eventually spread out over the rest of the country, from coast to coast. As many as 700,000 descendants of Jan Pietersen Haring may be living today. (Figure 1.) Who was Jan Pietersen Haring, and where did he come from? In 1991, in my book on the Haring family, *A Dutch Family in the Middle Colonies, 1660-1800*, I wrote that Jan Haring had emigrated here in the 1630s with his parents. What I believed at the time was wrong. I gave him short shrift in that book as well, because my main focus was on the four generations who came after him.<sup>1</sup>

Now, twenty years later, I welcome the opportunity to correct what I wrote and to sum up all that is known at this point about Jan Pietersen Haring. I will do this by looking at every certain reference to him in the primary records—twenty-one in all—and by looking at four personal contacts—three certain, one presumed—in order to view him in relation to his contemporaries. The twenty-one certain references in the records are: his baptism in Hoorn, the Netherlands, his marriage in New Amsterdam, the baptisms of six of his seven children, his witnessing of a will, two

appointments to the office of *schepen* (magistrate), a reference to him as a “wheelewright,” two references to a land venture in Manhattan, three references to his land holdings on Manhattan, a notarial record in Hoorn in 1680, two references to the deed to the Tappan Patent, and his death. Sybout Claasen is the presumed personal contact, and the three certain ones are Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten (Jan’s father-in-law), Wolphert Webber, and Samuel Edsall.

### *Origins in Hoorn*

Until now, Jan Pietersen Haring’s origins in Hoorn in Westfriesland in today’s province of North Holland have been stated, without clear proof; now they have been proved. Previously, his occupation was unknown; now he can be identified as a wheelwright, the occupation of his father-in-law, Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten. And until now, surprisingly, it had not been known that the Tappan Patent was not Jan’s first land venture. The course of his career, as we trace his presence in the records, illustrates how an obscure Dutch settler, with ability, determination, ambition, hard work, and helpful connections, could succeed in the New World.

On December 18, 1633, a male child, Jan, was baptized in the city of Hoorn .<sup>2</sup> His parents are recorded as Pieter Jansz and Maritie Pieters, living

in *de Grootte Havensteech* (“the big street leading to the harbor”), a block-long street in a good neighborhood halfway between the present Westfries Museum and the *Nieuwe Haven* (New Harbor) on the Zuiderzee. This street, which today is called *de Grote Havensteeg*, was laid out in around 1420. On a map of Hoorn, dated 1630, it is lined with neat, comfortable-looking houses, standing side by side, with gardens and orchards behind. It is near the busy harbor, but set back enough so that the commotion of the wharves is at a polite distance. The fish market is at the harbor end of the street, and the impressive *Stadt huys* or City Hall and the *Waag*, the Weigh House, are at the other end, along with a church and the *Statencollege*, built in 1632, a year before this child’s baptism.

Today, the houses on the right-hand side of the street going toward the harbor still stand from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. (Figure 2.) On the map the street appears to be home to what we would call today middle-class citizens of the city, craftsmen, tradesmen, and artisans. *Zeven eeuwen Hoorn, zijn bewoners en hun rijke verleden*, translated as “Hoorn for Seven Centuries: Its Inhabitants and Their Rich History,” notes that, of all the many West Friesian towns, Hoorn was able to develop into an important city because of its favorable location at a bend in the dike on the Zuiderzee.

The coast formed a natural harbor at Hoorn, and an important land route crossed the dike. This crossing place of land and waterways attracted traders and merchants, who built the houses of the little city and supplied the needs of its inhabitants.<sup>3</sup> (Figures 3 and 4.)

From an archival reference that has recently surfaced, it is now known that Jan Pietersen's brother Cornelis was one of these tradesmen, a mason. The other males in the family may also have gone into the building trades or other skilled occupations. Jan has been identified as a wheelwright in New Amsterdam. As he cannot be documented in New Netherland before 1662, when he was 28, it is likely that he apprenticed as a wheelwright in Hoorn and worked there at that trade before emigrating. Being of a mature age at emigration, having a good occupation, and coming from a good neighborhood, combined with the fact that Jan Pietersen's name is not found on any ship lists, suggests that he was able to pay his own way over. The Dutch West India Company kept careful records of the names of those who borrowed their passage money.

The newly found, and salient, reference that has been discovered in the Hoorn archives now ties the child baptized in 1633 in Hoorn to a constellation of references to a Jan Pietersen cited in the New Amsterdam

records and permits the identification of the child as Jan Pietersen Haring, the leader of the Tappan Patentees. The reference is as follows: In 1680, “Jan Pietersz Haring, living in New Netherland, brother of the deceased Cornelis Pietersz,” was present in Hoorn on May 25, when the Hoorn notary Cornelis Nopper wrote his notarial deed. “This deed,” according to the archivist in Hoorn, “concerned the inheritance of Ariaantje Claas, widow of Cornelis Pietersz *Metselaar* [i.e., mason], a brother of Jan Pietersz Haring who was one of the successors.”<sup>4</sup> (Successor means heir.)

In New Amsterdam, this child appears in adulthood as Jan Pietersen, Jan Pieterzen, Jan Peterson, Jan Pietersen Hering, Jon Peterson Hering, Jan Pietersen Haaring, and Jan Pietersen Having (a typographical error). Among the seven children that he would eventually father are a Pieter, a Maritie, and a Cornelis—in the Dutch naming tradition called after his father, mother, and brother. The surname he adopted in New Netherland may indicate that his family, living a stone’s throw from the Zuiderzee, was involved in Hoorn’s herring industry (which would include the related ship-building and salt-trading industries), *haring* being the Dutch word for herring. (Or there may be another explanation for this choice of name, which I will suggest below.)

## *Hoorn and New Amsterdam*

But, first, why would this young man have chosen to emigrate from comfortable, civilized Hoorn to the comparative wilderness of New Netherland? New Netherland had a good image in Hoorn. Two of the ship captains associated with its earliest history were natives of Hoorn, Captain Cornelis J. May, who named Cape May, and Captain David de Vries, whose father's family had been in Hoorn for 200 years. As early as 1613, Captain May explored the northeast coast of America. He captained the ship *Nieu Nederlandt*, one of the two that brought the first settlers, thirty Walloon families, to the colony in 1624, and during that year he served as the colony's first leader. We can presume that Captain May retired to Hoorn, where he, no doubt, described the little colony in glowing terms to his townsfolk, the generation of Jan Pietersen's parents. Likewise, Captain De Vries undoubtedly regaled the inhabitants of Hoorn with his rare adventures in the New World. He made three trips to New Netherland between 1630 and 1644, returning in between voyages to his native town. In the year of his death in 1655, De Vries published his memoirs, a first-hand account of the perils of the struggling colony and of its magnificent potential.<sup>5</sup> (Figures 5 and 6.)

*Jan Pietersen Haring and Sybout Claasen*

Other Hoorn residents who settled in New Amsterdam communicated back home with tales of the wonders of their new land. One significant link to Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten and possibly to the family of Jan Pietersen [Haring] in Hoorn was Sybout Claasen, a carpenter by trade, who was in New Amsterdam by 1643, when Cosyn Gerritsen went to court at Sybout's request in a matter involving a disputed debt. In 1646 Sybout Claasen received land. In honor of his native town, he called this 100-acre tract at today's 89<sup>th</sup> Street and the East River—where Gracie Mansion now stands—Hoorn's Hoek, no doubt seeing a resemblance in the way Manhattan juts into the East River at this point to the way Hoorn's coastline "hooked out" into the Zuiderzee.<sup>6</sup>

Sybout Claasen married Susannah Schunenburg, the widow of Aert Teunissen van Putten, who was murdered by Indians in 1643, and thus by the Dutch law in place Sybout came into possession of Aert's property near Wall Street (see below). The name Aert and Aert's origins in Putten,\* a city in the province of Gelderland in central Holland, evokes yet another connection. (\*A note on Dutch nomenclature: At this time in history, people were acquiring surnames, many of them based on family (Claas or



Classen, meaning “son of Claas,” could be used by members of the same family), or place of origin (“van” indicates “from”), or a trade (cooper, e.g.). His name suggests that Aert Teunissen van Putten was possibly a relative of the brothers Aert Gerritsen and Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten, later to be Jan Pietersen Haring’s father-in-law. A sure sign of some relationship occurred on May 20, 1640, when Aert Teunissen van Putten was given the honor of witnessing the baptism of Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten’s first-born child.<sup>7</sup>

Family networks were extremely important to the settlers, who relied on each other for many kinds of mutual support, especially in times of sorrow and hardship. So it is possible that Sybout Claasen was also related to the family of Ariaantje Claas, who was, as I showed above, the widow of Cornelis Pietersz *Metselaar* (mason), Jan Pietersen Haring’s brother in Hoorn. In 1649 Sybout Claasen, returning to the Netherlands, acted as a power of attorney for Cosyn Gerritsen in the matter of a legacy left to him by an aunt in Hoorn, also named, like Sybout’s wife, Susannah (the aunt’s last name is identified here as “Elefersen” and “Elefersz”). Sybout died in 1680 and, after designating a thousand guilders to the Reformed Dutch Church, left his estate to his wife Susannah, who survived him, and after her

to her two daughters by her first husband, Wyntie and Susannah.<sup>8</sup> (I think of this as the Susannah connection and am pursuing it in another context.)

Sybout is the first of the four “connections” between Jan Pietersen Haring and his contemporaries to be explored here, but, as there is as yet no known documentary link between the two men, I have labeled it a “presumed” connection.

### *Jan Pietersen and Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten*

Jan’s link to Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten is much more concrete: the two men shared the same trade, and Jan married Cosyn’s daughter, Grietje Cosyns.

Their common occupation suggests that Jan and Cosyn shared similar talents and personal attributes. It was not easy to become a wheelwright. The apprenticeship was long and arduous. It took as many as seven years to learn the trade, and it required skills in mathematics and an intuitive understanding of the principles of mechanics. When he had mastered the basics, the apprentice was tasked to build and paint a wheelbarrow, which could take as long as a year to accomplish. In short, wheelwrighting was an occupation that required patience and tenacity as well as a bent for

measuring and fitting, and not all were suited to it. Cosyn Gerritsen's first son-in-law, Herman Theuniszen van Zell, chose to farm for Augustyn Heermans rather than to take up the demanding occupation of wheelwright.<sup>9</sup> (Figure 7.)

*Jan Pietersen in New Amsterdam*

In returning to the question of why Jan Pietersen might have decided to leave comfortable Hoorn to start over in America, we find that, in 1653, when Jan was twenty years old, the younger generation all over the Netherlands was agog over *Remonstrance of New Netherland*, an account published that year by Adriaen van der Donck, a lawyer trained in the Netherlands and a member of Director General Petrus Stuyvesant's advisory Board of Nine Men. Van der Donck's descriptions of the rich and fertile land, its charms, its abundance, its endless possibilities, ignited the desires of this generation of the Dutch for something different from what Holland offered. As the Directors of the West India Company wrote to Stuyvesant, "Formerly New Netherland was never spoken of [here], and now heaven and earth seem to be stirred up by it and everyone tries to be the first in selecting the best pieces" of land there.<sup>10</sup> We cannot know for sure, but Jan Pietersen may have been among the group of 140 settlers who sailed to Manhattan

shortly after the pamphlet's publication, instead of among the hundreds who were turned away.

Many Jan Pietersens occur in the printed records of New Amsterdam and New Netherland. It is a common name. I have narrowed the field of possibilities significantly by eliminating for consideration here (1) any whose age makes him an unlikely candidate, (2) any described as of a place other than Hoorn, (3) any with a particular last name, such as Jan Pietersen Slot in Harlem Village or Jan Pietersen Bronck in the Kingston area, (4) any known to be living in places other than Manhattan Island, (5) any with a wife other than Grietje Cosyns, and (6) any with an occupation other than wheelwright. I have particularly eliminated a number of JPs engaged in woodsawing on the theory that a wheelwright would not waste his time sawing wood, which was a job requiring no skills or training, when he could be making a wagon or a plow, harrow, cart or anything that required a wheel. (Figure 8.)

In this process of elimination, there is one complication. Various Jan Pietersens appear in the records who are not identified as to occupation or place of origin. If our Jan emigrated from Hoorn in 1654 in response to the Van der Donck pamphlet, the Jan Pietersens who appear from that year until

1662, when we know that our Jan was in New Amsterdam, may be he, or they may be another man.

The first sightings in the records of New Amsterdam of a Jan Pietersen who may be our man, although it cannot be certain, occur on October 4, 1658, when a Jan Pietersen offered himself for the night watch, and again on November 22, 1658, when a Jan Pietersen took the burgher oath in New Amsterdam—a requirement for anyone wishing to do business in the city—paying twenty guilders in beavers for the privileges of the small Burgher Right.<sup>11</sup>

Two sightings some twenty years later may also be our Jan Pietersen, although they involve boatwrighting rather than wheelwrighting. On February 13, 1674, one Thomas Lewis went to court to accuse Jan Pietersen, Abraham Lammertsen Mol, and Evert Evertsen for neglecting to fulfill their contract to repair a sloop. A month later, Lewis was back in court suing the three for failing to “build his sloop according to agreement.” The court ordered the three men to fulfill the contract, whether to repair the boat or to finish building it is not specified.<sup>12</sup>

## *Family Connections*

The wheelwright at Colonial Williamsburg has told me that there was no overlap among wrights (wheelwright, housewright, boatwright, millwright) any more than there was between a silversmith and a blacksmith. A wheelwright was not trained to build a boat, nor was a housewright trained to build a mill. And vice versa. Although this Jan Pietersen is acting as a boatwright, while ours was a wheelwright, this may suggest that Jan had bitten off more than he could chew, perhaps in order to help out friends who were short-handed. Unable to successfully apply his wheelwrighting skills to repairing the sloop, he might have contributed to the failure of the contract.

Family connections and networks were vital to survival and to success in adapting to the new conditions of the archipelago that was New Amsterdam. So, despite the disconnect in trades here, there is reason to believe on *other* grounds that the man in this court case is Jan Pietersen Haring. First, Mol and Evert are known to be Dutch, and one might guess that their third partner was Dutch also, thus eliminating some Jan Pietersens of Scandinavian origin. There is, however, more than an ethnic connection. The Lambertsen and Moll families were related to the Harings by friendship

and by marriage. In 1646, Haring's friend and later fellow patentee in Tappan, Gerrit Hendricksen (Blauvelt), had married Marretje Lamberts Moll, the daughter of New Amsterdam shipwright Lambert Huybertsen Moll, two of whose sons would invest in the Tappan Patent. In 1683, JPH witnessed the last will and testament of Gerrit Hendricksen (Blauvelt). And in about 1692, Gerrit and Marretje's daughter, Maritie Gerrits Blauvelt, would marry Cosyn Haring, second son of Jan Pietersen Haring.<sup>13</sup>

Further, marriage banns were recorded for Maeryken Evertsen and Cosijn Gerrit in the City Hall of Putten in Gelderland on January 2, 1631, suggesting another family relationship among these three defendants in the case. That is, if the Cosyn Gerrit who married Maeryken Evertsen in Putten in 1631 is the Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten whose bouwerie # 41 appears on the Manatus Map of 1639, and whose wife in New Amsterdam is known to have been named Vroutje Gerrits, then the Tryntje Everts who witnessed the baptism of Cosyn and Vroutje's first child on May 20, 1640, may have been a relative of Cosyn's first wife, Maeryken Evertsen.<sup>14</sup>

(Figures 9 and 10.)

## *Jan Pietersen's Manhattan Property*

Exactly when Jan Pietersen Haring arrived in New Netherland can only be guessed. Since we know, however, that he married the daughter of Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten on May 28, 1662, it seems logical that he was in New Amsterdam at least six months prior to that date. And indeed, six months prior to the marriage, on December 6, 1661, a Jan Pietersen received ground briefs for two adjacent properties in Lot 7 in Block B on the Castello Plan, hard by Wall Street. (The Castello Plan is a survey of New Amsterdam south of Wall Street prepared in 1660 at the behest of the city fathers.) (Figure 11.) The two properties totaled about 5,400 square feet, big enough for a decent-sized house with space for a garden and a small orchard. The ground briefs, or legal documents describing the property, were not “found of record,” according to Phelps Stokes, but on May 16, 1668, they were recited in a document confirming the sale from Governor Nicolls to Jan Pietersen (Patents Albany, III, 34).<sup>15</sup>

The first of the two ground briefs was described as being to East above and West of the lot of Domine Samuel Drisius, to South of the fortifications by the wall, to North of Joseph Waldron. Its dimensions were roughly 90 by 30 feet. The second was about the same size.



This property was in a good neighborhood. On the Castello Plan, the Domine, Augustyne Heermans, the brothers Joseph and Resolvert Waldron, and the Latin School are located here. Resolvert Waldron was a much-respected sheriff and minor authority in New Amsterdam, and a favorite of Director General Stuyvesant. In 1659, Stuyvesant sent Waldron with the august Augustyne Heermans on an important mission to establish an agreement with the governor of Maryland on the boundaries of that colony and the Dutch settlements on the Delaware. In his descriptions of the “Dutch Grants,” Phelps Stokes recites the real-estate sales in the neighborhood that corresponds to Block B of the Costello Plan, and we find such illustrious New Amsterdammers as Isaac Allerton and Govert Loockermans, David Provoost, Samuel Edsall, Isaac de Forest, Jacob Kip, buying and selling here in the years from 1643 to 1667.<sup>16</sup>

Even more interesting, on the map of the Dutch Grants itself, the lot immediately adjoining the lot labeled Jan Pietersen indicates that none other than Aert Teunissen van Putten had received a grant here “prior to 1643,” and that none other than “Sybout Claessen,” husband of Aert’s widow, possessed it as of June 5, 1646. Again, that intriguing, but not yet

fully nailed-down, family connection among Van Puttens, Aunt Susannah in Hoorn, Sybout Claasen, and Jan's sister-in-law in Hoorn, Ariaantje Claas.

Phelps Stokes says that Jan Pietersen sold this property to Domine Drisius, probably in 1668. Our Jan Pietersen must have acquired other land in the area, however, for later land records clearly mention Jan Pietersen Haring by name as a boundary owner, sufficient evidence to prove his continuing presence in the neighborhood of today's Astor Place and 8<sup>th</sup> Street, west of the Bowery and north of Minetta Street in the heart of Greenwich Village. Haring's property or his estate is mentioned in tax lists and land papers as late as 1733, fifty years after his death.<sup>17</sup>

No records, however, document how he acquired this land. It can be presumed that he came into it through his wife, Grietje Cosyns. In 1655, Grietje, age fourteen and already a married woman, went to court over a matter relating to her "buckwheat fields," land she had probably received as her dowry at her first marriage the year before. At her second marriage, to Haring in 1662, she may also have received land from her father, for he had land to spare.<sup>18</sup>

Early on, Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten had been granted 34 morgens (68 acres), in the Out Ward. This land appears on the Manatus Map of 1639

as “Bou van Cosyn,” #41. At the same time, Cosyn received a house lot and garden plot on the east side of Broadway. Later, in 1661, he purchased five acres “lying & being neare Myn Heer Stuyvesants Bowery on ye West side of ye Great high way [Broadway] . . . Together with a Lott House & Garden.” And “Before 1665,” he acquired the house and ten acres of Director Wouter van Twiller, deceased. In these three properties, then, Cosyn had a total of 83 acres and only three children who survived to adulthood to share it.<sup>19</sup>

The house Cosyn acquired “Before 1665” had been built for Director Van Twiller by Dutch West India Company carpenters in 1633. It was an iconic house in Manhattan and stood for many years at the corner of today’s 8<sup>th</sup> and Macdougall streets in Greenwich Village. It appears on both the Ratzler and the Bancker maps (1766 and 1773) and according to Phelps Stokes “on Taylor’s Map of Nov. 2, 1795.” (Figure 12.) Grietje’s property—her buckwheat fields and any other land she received at her second marriage, combined with what she would have received at her father’s death—would all, under the law in place at the time, legally belong to Jan Pietersen as her husband. This land formed the nucleus of the 200-acre farm of the couple’s grandson Elbert Haring/Herring, and it may have amounted

to as much as 160 acres, for only one 40-acre purchase by Elbert appears in the records.<sup>20</sup> (Figure 13.) In sum, if he was the purchaser of Lot 7, Block B, in 1661, which I believe he was, then six months later, Jan Pietersen Haring at age 29 married the young widow Grietje Cosyns, the daughter of Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten, wheelwright. The facts are slender, but they strongly suggest that Jan Pietersen Haring had no need for Lot 7 after he married Grietje in 1662, so he sold it to his neighbor Domine Samuel Drisius, and settled on his wife's land in the Out Ward—perhaps in the same house where she had lived for four years with her first husband or perhaps in the house and five-acre lot that her father had purchased in 1661 “lying and being neare” Stuyvesant's farm.

#### *Jan Pietersen's Marriage*

It can be suspected that the bride's father and her new husband, both wheelwrights, already had a business relationship. As mentioned above, they may even have had a prior connection in Hoorn. In 1640, Cosyn Gerritsen gave a power of attorney to his brother Aert Gerritsen to collect a legacy of 100 Carolus guilders left to him by his aunt in Hoorn, Susannah. This was apparently the same legacy from his aunt, now identified as

Susannah “Elefersen” or “Elefersz,” that Cosyn would authorize Sybout Claasen to collect in 1649.<sup>21</sup>

It is interesting to speculate that the Pietersen (i.e., Haring) and Elefersen families in Hoorn were acquainted there through this woman, and even that Jan Pietersen from Hoorn with a wheelwrighting background may have had a letter of introduction from someone in the Elefersen family to Susannah’s nephew Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten, wheelwright, in New Amsterdam.

The marriage of Jan and Grietje does not appear in the Reformed Dutch Church records, but it was recorded in a now-lost family Bible seen by two historians, Franklin Burdge in the 1870s and George Budke in the 1920s. The record also appears in the Haring Family Notebook, now at the D.A.R. library in Washington, D.C.<sup>22</sup>

The Notebook, dating from 1830, states that “*John Haring the third Son of Peter Haring of Hornin of North Holland was born the 26 day of December 1633 Anno Domini and was Married on Whitsuntide 1662 to Margaret Cozine\* (\*the names of the couple are Anglicized here) a Widow the ceremony was performed in the New Dutch Church on Stuyvesants Bowery New York these were the first couple ever married in that Church.*”

There are two obvious problems with this statement, both of which, however, can be explained. Since he was baptized in Hoorn on December 18, John Haring could not have been born on December 26. It has to be assumed that the 2 is a mistake for a 1. The passage should read “born the 16 day of December 1633.” Peter Christoph, an expert in seventeenth-century Dutch script, explains: “A one with a long upstroke and a rounded top looks like a two in which the pen ran out of ink after the downstroke and so lacks the horizontal line. A one is easily mistaken for a 2.”<sup>23</sup> Since small seemingly wrong facts such as this lead skeptics to cast doubt on the authenticity of a record, it is wise to clear up the ambiguity.

The second problem is with the reference to Whitsuntide. Whitsuntide is the period around Pentecost. Whitsunday is the Sabbath day when Pentecost is officially celebrated, fifty days after Easter. According to the Gregorian calendar, which was used in New Netherland, Easter in 1662 was on April 9, making fifty days later May 28. Yet upon consulting Samuel Pepys’ diary for that year, as some will do, May 28 appears to be a Wednesday, when there was no minister at the bowerie, a discrepancy that could arouse another doubt in a skeptical mind as to the missing Bible’s existence or to the Notebook’s authenticity. There is an explanation:

England was still using the Julian calendar in 1662, and May 28 was a Wednesday in England. But in New Netherland, which used the Gregorian calendar, May 28 was a Sunday. In changing from the Julian to the Gregorian calendars, 11 days were skipped, but the names of the days were retained. “Sunday stayed Sunday; it just had a different number.”<sup>24</sup>

On Sunday evenings starting in the fall of 1660, Domine Henricus Selyns, the newly arrived minister of the First Dutch Reformed Church of Brooklyn, began preaching on Director General Petrus Stuyvesant’s bowerie to the people of the Out Ward, the farms beyond the Wall. At first, he probably preached in a barn, as he was doing in the first year of his pastorate in Brooklyn. The church, where Jan and Grietje’s marriage is said to have been “the first,” was actually a chapel that was probably constructed, as was Selyns’ church in Brooklyn, during the winter of 1661-1662. Marriages performed in Manhattan by Selyns earlier than Whitsuntide in 1662 are recorded on the bowerie, before the chapel was built. An examination of Selyns’ original records at the Sage Library in New Brunswick, NJ, indicates that the only marriages recorded in 1662 after the chapel was built were two performed on August 13, 1662.<sup>25</sup> Thus, except for the missing Bible reference noted in the Haring Family Notebook, the place and date of Jan

Pietersen Haring's marriage would not be known, nor the fact that it was the "first ever" in the new chapel.

### *Jan Pietersen Haring's Children*

During the years from 1664 to 1681, Jan Pietersen Haring and Grietje Cosyns had seven children. All but the eldest are recorded in the baptismal records of the New York Reformed Dutch Church. The baptism of their eldest child, Pieter, does not appear in the Church records, but the missing Bible and the Haring Notebook have him born on August 13, 1664, a Wednesday by the Gregorian calendar. Five days later the abrupt appearance of a hostile English fleet in the harbor threw everyday life into confusion, and the baptism that under normal conditions would, could, or should have taken place on Sunday, August 17, or Sunday, August 24, went unrecorded.

Because of this, some may question whether this son existed, but, despite the missing record, Pieter Haring was surely born. He inherited one of his father's shares in the Tappan Patent, married Margrietje Jans Bogert, the daughter of Jan Louwe Bogert, in the New York Reformed Dutch Church, and served for many years as Orange County's delegate to the New York Assembly. The baptisms of Jan and Grietje's six other children



in the New York Reformed Dutch Church are Vroutje, 15 May 1667, Cosyn, 31 [sic] February 1669, Cornelis, 10 April 1672, Brechtje, 17 July 1675, Marytie, 11 October 1679, and Abraham, 13 December 1681. In the 1669 baptism of his son Cosyn, Jan is referred to for the first time in the extant records as Jan Pieterszen *Haring*.<sup>26</sup>

### *The Haring Name*

Why did he choose this last name? As I suggested above, it may have been because his family in Hoorn was associated with the herring industry. But there may also have been another—a political—reason. I wonder if, by choosing this name, which was well known in Hoorn, and indeed in all of the United Republic of the Netherlands, he was thumbing his nose at the British. A hundred years earlier, on October 12, 1573, a great naval battle for control of the Zuiderzee took place off the coast of Hoorn between the Spanish fleet of Philip II under Admiral de Bossu and a swarm of patriot vessels. During this battle, known locally as the Battle of Diemerdyke, one Jan Haring, ever more to be remembered in the Netherlands as Jan Haring the Hero of Hoorn, was shot and killed in the act of hauling down the colors of the Spanish Admiral's man-of-war. (Figure 14.)

The hero Jan Haring is not known to have any issue. Nor did any member of the Haring family in America ever claim consanguinity with him. In calling himself Haring however, Jan Pietersen could have been telling the British, whose Navy had just taken over the Dutch colony of New Netherland, that the Dutch had defeated an Empire before and might do so again. As indeed, they did.

It must have been gratifying to Jan Haring when, almost exactly one hundred years after the Battle of the Zuiderzee, on August 15, 1673, when the Dutch had taken back the colony, he was nominated a magistrate or *schepen* by the “outside people on this side of [the village of] Haerlem” i.e., the Out Ward.<sup>27</sup> The charge reads: “The Delegates from the Commonality of the City of New Orange [formerly New York] . . . are recommended to . . . nominate six persons as Burgomasters and fifteen as *Schepens*, to wit from the wealthiest inhabitants and those only, who are of the Reformed Religion.” Jan Haring was 40 years old and apparently a financial success.

On October 2, 1674, “From the nomination made by the Outside People beyond the Fresh Water, the Court, with the approbation of the Honorable Governor General, have elected and confirmed as Magistrates for the ensuing year” Jan Pietersen Haaring and Adriaen Cornelissen, *Old*

Schepens, and Jacob Pietersen de Groot and Wolphert Webber, New Schepens.<sup>29</sup> I have italicized *old* to emphasize that the Jan Pietersen confirmed as a *schepen* in 1673 and this Jan Pietersen Haaring were one and the same man.

### ***Jan Pietersen Haring and Wophert Webber***

Let us now look at Jan's connection to Wolphert Webber. Both the *Records of New Amsterdam* and the Beeckman Family Papers at the New York State Library contain accounts of a land dispute of long standing between Willem Beeckman and this same Wolphert Webber, *schepen*. In June 1667, "Jan Pietersz," Webber's neighbor, friend, future co-*schepen* for the Out Ward, and future land partner, as will be shown, made a deposition concerning the disputed location of the wagon road leading from the highway to Curlaer's Hoeck.<sup>30</sup> Wolphert Webber was a good man to know. Although his early appearances in the records are less than illustrious, being connected to cases of fighting and slander, in midlife he settled down and, like a model citizen, rose from constable and *schepen* in the Out Ward to Common Councilman and tax assessor under the English.<sup>31</sup>

With the recent publication of several years' worth of papers of the administration of Colonial Governor Edmund Andros, we can make another

discovery never before known about Jan Pietersen Haring or about his connection to Wolphert Webber. On March 29, 1676, “Wolferd Webber Constable and Jno. Peterson: wheelemaker” (former New and former Old *Schepens* in 1674) applied for land “upon Manhatens Island,” along with various neighbors, among them Haring’s brother-in-law “Garrat Cozensee,” and “Daniell Clarke,” i.e., Daniel De Clarke, who would later marry Haring’s widow. The group also included two free blacks from the Out Ward who subsequently invested in the Tappan Patent: “Claus Manuell a Negro” and “Jon:DeFreeze Molatt” (i.e., Mulatto).<sup>32</sup>

The group seems to have been successful, because on February 25, 1677/78, the City Council produced an order regarding “The Land of Wolford Webber and Jon: Peterson Hering knowne by the Name of The Land Hills.” This is a misprint for the Sand Hills, which was the name given to what had formerly been called Cosyn Gerritsen’s Wagon Way and that is today Eighth Street and Astor Place.<sup>33</sup> In 1658, Petrus Stuyvesant had described how the Sand Hills got this name: he himself had had “fenced, dammed and raised up, at great cost and labour, out of the water and swamp” some abandoned lots, raising them with “about eight or nine thousand [wagon] loads of sand.”<sup>34</sup>

### *The Tappan Patent*

Perhaps his inheritance from his brother in Hoorn in 1680 spurred Jan Pietersen Haring to put together a group of ten families, including his own, to acquire the Tappan Patent, 16,000 acres extending from West Nyack on the north to today's Oradell reservoir in Bergen County on the south, and from the hills of the Nyack Range overlooking the Hudson River on the east to the Hackensack River on the west.

In any case, in around 1681, when he had been in America for at least twenty years, Jan Pietersen Haring together with Adriaen Lambertsen Smith, Gerrit Hendricksen Blauvelt, and Haring's friend and exact contemporary Samuel Edsall negotiated with the Tappaen Indians for the land that would become the Tappan Patent.<sup>35</sup>

### *Jan Pietersen Haring and Samuel Edsall*

Samuel Edsall was a *very* good man to know. An Englishman married to a Dutch wife, he became a Burgher of New Amsterdam in 1657 and rose to affluence. He was a substantial landowner, who held several different tracts, including one of 2,000 acres between the Hudson and Hackensack rivers just south of the Tappan Patent. A trader, a merchant, and an adviser to a number of administrations in New York and New Jersey, Edsall acted as the

translator in the negotiations with the Tappaens and was a signatory on the deed to the land the Tappan patentees acquired in 1681. That year he was sitting on the Council of East Jersey Proprietary Governor Philip Carteret.

At the time of Leisler's Rebellion in 1689(New York's response to the Glorious Revolution in England) Edsall was considered as having a "better acquaintance with matters of government than was possessed by any of his colleagues or indeed by Leisler himself," and played a "leading influence in the affairs of the Colony" during the Leisler period.<sup>36</sup>

I have referred above to the possible politicization of Jan Pietersen Haring caused by his resentment at the English takeover of New Netherland. The Edsall connection indicates that the Tappan Patentees and their friends were closely attuned to the political currents of the day. Edsall was a member of the Committee of Safety that chose Jacob Leisler captain of the fort in New York on June 8, 1689, and if he had lived, I believe that Jan Pietersen Haring would have joined him on the Committee, as did Daniel De Clark and Haring in-laws Teunis Roelofsen van Houten and Jean Demarest. Other Haring in-laws, Johannes Blauvelt, Teunis Talman, and Peter Bogert, were among those who captured the fort and served there under Leisler.<sup>37</sup>

Most remarkably, Samuel Edsall turns up in Rotterdam, a hive of political activity in the 1680s, and a hub of what has been called Protestant International. He was among the intellectuals and activists who met there in the salon of Quaker merchant Benjamin Furley, along with John Locke, and he is the figure who links these thinkers and doers in Europe with Leisler's supporters in New York, men abreast of and in tune with the main intellectual ideas of the times on both continents.<sup>38</sup>

### *Aftermath*

For the Haring family politics continued to be a family tradition. Jan Pietersen Haring's sons Pieter and Cornelius, as well as his grandson Abraham, served in the New York Assembly representing Orange County eleven times in fifty-eight sessions over the period 1701-1768, and his great-grandson John Haring, Esq., called the Patriot Statesman of Rockland County, rose from County Judge to delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses to President pro-tem of the New York Provincial Congress. He was said to have acted as the "eyes and ears" of George Washington in fraught Orange County during the Revolution.<sup>39</sup> He is buried in the Tappan Reformed Church cemetery. (Figure 15.) By virtue of Jan Pietersen Haring's vision in putting the Tappan venture together, and his

purchase of three shares—more than any of the other shareholders—he was considered the leader of the families. Each of the shares was for about a thousand acres, and Jan must have had high hopes for a thriving future.

But here his luck ran out. Jan Pietersen Haring died, intestate, on December 7, 1683, just weeks short of age 50, even before the patent was officially granted by the Provincial Council and confirmed by Governor Thomas Dongan.<sup>40</sup>

Two years after his death, Haring's widow remarried, and she and new husband Daniel De Clarke and their children all settled on the Tappan Patent, where the Haring children and their children and children's children married into other local families. Those that I can name are the Auryansen, Banta, Bertholf, Blanch, Blauvelt, Bogert, Brinkerhoff, De Baun, De Graw, Demarest, De Peyster, Eckerson, Ferdon, Flierboom, Goetschius, Ives, Jones, Lent, Livingston, Kip, Nagel, Peek, Perry, Quackenbush, Quick, Roosevelt, Sickles, Smith, Van Antwerp, Van Dalsen, Van Emburg, Van Houten, Verbryck, Wortendyke, and Zabriskie families—and I have probably overlooked others.

*Summary*



Here I have shown that, by eliminating all the Jan Pietersens in the records who were not from Hoorn, who had a different last name than Haring in the records, who lived elsewhere than Manhattan, who were too old or too young to be a candidate, who were not married to Grietje Cosyns, and who were not identified as wheelwrights, *and* by linking the man who was from Hoorn, with in-laws, friends, neighbors, colleagues, as well as offices known to be his, and also with two land ventures known to be his, we can reasonably assume that we have found our man, hidden in the records for all this time in plain sight.

## Notes

1. Firth Haring Fabend, *A Dutch Family in the Middle Colonies, 1660-1800* (Rutgers University Press, 1991; rpt. 1999).
2. Personal correspondence with Piet Boon, Archivist, Archiefdienst Westfriese, Hoorn, the Netherlands, Feb. 10 and Feb. 18, 1986, reference # 86140. Only 10 percent of the seventeenth-century records of Hoorn survive, so despite diligent searching it has not been possible to find the baptismal records of this child's siblings, or any land, tax, surrogate court, or other church records relating to the family. Information on the street is courtesy of the Bibliotheek Hoorn, quoting from the book *Hoorn: huizen, straten, mensen: momenten uit de geschiedenis van monumenten*, 1982.
3. Multiple authors, *Zeven eeuwen Hoorn* (Hoorn, 1987), p. 6.
4. E-mail correspondence with Piet Boon, Archivist, Archiefdienst Westfriese, Hoorn, the Netherlands, October 26 and November 7, 2005.
5. A translation of the passages of De Vries's memoir relevant to New Netherland are in J. Franklin Jameson, ed., *Narratives of New Netherland* (New York, 1909), pp. 181-234.

6. A. J. F. Van Laer, *New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch*, 4 vols. (Baltimore, 1974), vol. ii [109a], p. 219; hereafter *NYHM Dutch*. J. H. Innes, *New Amsterdam and Its People* (New York, 1902), pp. 125-126, mentions the land at Hoorn's Hoek.
7. *Baptisms from 1639 to 1730 in the Reformed Dutch Church in New Amsterdam and New York* (New York, 1901).
8. *NYHM Dutch*, vol. iii [50a], p. 132. Searches in the Hoorn archives have not revealed Susannah Elefersen's estate papers, but they may yet turn up. *Abstracts of Wills* (New-York Historical Society *Collections*, 1892), Liber 1-2, p. 107.
9. See Firth Haring Fabend, "Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten: New Amsterdam's Wheelwright," *de Halve Maen* (The Holland Society of New York), vol. 80 (Summer 2007), 2:23-30. And George Sturt, *The Wheelwright's Shop* (Cambridge, U.K., 1923; rpt. 1993); Don Peloubet, ed., *Wheelmaking: Wooden Wheel Design and Construction* (Mendham, N.J., 1996); Jocelyn Bailey, *The Village Wheelwright and Carpenter* (Aylesbury, U.K., 1975). For Van Zell, in Berthold Fernow, ed., *The Records of New Amsterdam from 1653 to 1674*, 7 vols. (New York, 1897), vol. iii, p. 43, refers to Heermans' "farmer Harmen Teunissen."

10. Van der Donck's *Remonstrance of New Netherland* contained a long litany of complaints about the mismanagement of the colony by Stuyvesant and the WIC and asked the States General to take the administration of the colony away from them. The quotation is from Charles Gehring, trans. and ed., *Correspondence, 1647-1653* (Syracuse, N.Y., 2000), pp. 83-84.

11. *RNA*, vol. vii, 195, 200.

12. *RNA*, vol. vii, 58, 72.

13. New York Reformed Dutch Church, May 7, 1646, and *The Blauvelt Family Genealogy*, rev. ed., 2 vols., vol. 1, pp. 3, 8. Gerrit Hendricksen (Blauvelt's) will as witnessed by JPH is dated November 28, 1683. It is reproduced as Figure 3, following p. 182, in *The Blauvelt Family Genealogy*.

14. Information from Dr. P. Nouwt, archive researcher in the Netherlands, "Report," April 2007. See also James A. Cozine, "Finding Our Wooden Shoes," unpaginated ms., 2006, on deposit at the New York Biographical & Genealogical Library.

15. I. N. Phelps Stokes, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909*, 6 vols. (New York, 1915-1928), vol. ii (part iv, "The Dutch Grants"), p. 366, and Plates 87 and 82e for maps of the Dutch Grants. Hereafter,

*Iconography*. A copy of this massive work is in the New City Free Library's Rockland Room.

16. *Iconography*, vol. ii, p. 369.

17. Jan Pietersen Haring is cited in *Iconography*, vol. vi, pp. 106, 128, 129.

In the recitation in vol. vi, p. 129, from January 1715/16, his last name is misspelled as *Having*.

18. For Grietje: *RNA*, vol. i, pp. 352-353.

19. Cosyn's land holdings are described in *Iconography*, vol. ii, pp. 181-183, 186-187, 190-191, 203, on the Manatus Map of Manhattan Island, and pp.

238, 369-370, for recitations of "The Dutch Grants." See vol. vi, pp.

104-105, 123-124, 129-130, 157, 161-164, for "Original Grants and Farms."

The Petrus Stuyvesant purchase is in vol. vi, p. 129.

20. Van Twiller's house and land are described in *Iconography*, vol. ii, pp.

190-191; vol. vi, p. 157, 162-164. For the Elbert Herring Farm, see *ibid.*,

vol. vi, pp. 104-105.

21. Document 197, in *NYHM Dutch*, vol. i, p. 273. Aert's attempt to collect must have failed. The outcome of Sybout Claassen's attempt is not known.

22. Franklin Burdge, "A Notice of John Haring," Mss. & Archives Division, New York Public Library, 1878, unpaginated, and Budke Collection, #55;

George H. Budke, Budke Collection, New York Public Library, bound at New City Free Library; Peter Haring Judd, “The Haring Family Notebook and the Origins of the Haring Family in Hoorn, Holland,” *Record* (New York: The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society), 135 (July 2004), 3:169-174. Since the publication of Dr. Judd’s article in 2004, a researcher in the Hoorn archives has conclusively determined that Pieter Janszen of Hoorn and Pieter Janszen Harinckschuyt of Hoorn are not the same man, a theory I once entertained.

23. E-mail correspondence with Peter Christoph, February 7 and 8, 2007.

24. The quoted sentence is from Howard Swain. I thank him for help with this date.

25. A. P. G. Jos van der Linde, trans. and ed., *Old First Dutch Reformed Church of Brooklyn, New York, First Book of Records, 1660-1752, New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch* (Baltimore, 1983), p. xiii. On October 4, 1660, the Rev. Selyns wrote to the Classis of Amsterdam: “We do not preach in a church, but in a barn; next winter we shall by God’s favor . . . erect a church.” J. Franklin Jameson, *Narratives of New Netherland, 1609-1664* (New York, 1909), p. 406.

26. Burdge gives the birth date for Pieter, relying on the family Bible he had seen in the 1870s. *A Notice of John Haring* [p. 2]. *Baptisms from 1639 to 1730 in the Reformed Dutch Church in New Amsterdam and New York* (New York, 1901).
27. *RNA*, vol. vi, p. 401.
28. *RNA*, vol. vi, p. 396.
29. *RNA*, vol. vii, p. 127.
30. Beeckman Family Papers, New York State Library, Albany, NY, June 16, 1666, December 18, 1666, and June 3/13 1667.
31. For references, see *Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York, 1675-1776*, 8 vols. (New York, 1905), vol. 8 (index).
32. Peter R. Christoph, and Florence A. Christoph, eds., *The Andros Papers*, 3 vols. Vol. I: 1674-1676; Vol. II: 1677-1678; Vol. III: 1679-1680 (Syracuse, 1989-1991), Vol. I, 349-350. Hereafter *Andros Papers*. For the Tappan Patent, Fabend, *A Dutch Family in the Middle Colonies*.
33. *Andros Papers*, Vol. II, p. 263.
34. *RNA*, vol. ii, pp. 329-330.
35. The deed with the Tappan Indians is dated March 17, 1681 (old style). It was recorded in *East Jersey Patents* (Trenton, NJ), liber 4, pp. 17 and 18,

July 11, 1682. The New York Provincial Council granted the patent on October 13, 1685, and it was formally confirmed by the Governor on March 24, 1687.

36. For more on Edsall, see Firth Haring Fabend, "The Pro-Leislerian Dutch Farmers in Early New York," *The Hudson River Valley Review*, vol. 22 (Spring 2006), 2:79-90. Also George E. McCracken, "Samuel Edsall of Reading, Berk, and Some Early Descendants," *The Record*, 89 (N.Y. Genealogical Biographical Society), 3: 129-145, and 4:216-220; and Thomas Henry Edsall, "Something about Fish, Fisheries, and Fishermen in New York in the Seventeenth Century," *The Record*, 13 (NYG&BS), 4:194.

37. Fabend, *A Dutch Family in the Middle Colonies*, pp. 162-164, 200-204, 175-189.

38. Fabend, "Pro-Leislerian Dutch Farmers," pp. 85-88.

39. Fabend, *A Dutch Family in the Middle Colonies*, Chapters 8 and 9.

40. This date is given in the missing Bible and also in the Haring Family Notebook.



## List of Illustrations

- Figure 1. Map of the Tappan Patent Figure 2. Map of Hoorn
- Figure 3. Detail of Map of Hoorn showing de Grote Havensteeg
- Figure 4. Photo of de Grote Havensteeg
- Figure 5. City Hall of Hoorn in the 17<sup>th</sup> century
- Figure 6. Captain David de Vries
- Figure 7. A Wheelwright's Shop (from Diderot's *Pictorial Encyclopedia*)
- Figure 8. Wheelwright's Shop at Colonial Williamsburg
- Figure 9. Manatus Map of 1639
- Figure 10. Manatus Map (detail of)
- Figure 11. Castello Plan, 1660
- Figure 12. Ratzel Map, 1767
- Figure 13. Survey Map of Haring/Herring Farm, 1784
- Figure 14. Battle on the Zuiderzee, 1573
- Figure 15. New York Assembly Building, 18<sup>th</sup> century

