Success, Disappointment and Confusion: Achterhoek Immigrants to the United States

Mary Risseeuw 3 October 2026

Websites in the Netherlands:

WieWasWie https://www.wiewaswie.nl
Archieven.nl https://www.archieven.nl/
Ancestors.nl https://www.ancestors.nl
Delpher.nl (includes Dutch language newspapers in the U.S.)
Genealogieonline https://www.genealogieonline.nl
Open archieven https://www.openarchieven.n
Geneaknowhow https://www.geneaknowhow.net/digi/bronnen.html

Websites in the United States:

Family Search https://www.familysearch.org	Free, but you must register
Ancestry https://www.ancestry.com/	Paid subscription
MyHeritage https://www.myheritage.com	Paid subscription
Find A Grave https://www.findagrave.com/	

Also go to the websites for the state and local Historical Societies where your immigrant family lived. There are also collections at many public libraries and you can find information on their websites.

Data compiled by Dr. Robert Swierenga:

Dutch Emigrants to the U.S., South Africa, South America, Southeast Asia 1835-1880
Dutch Immigrants in U.S. Ship Passenger Manifests: 1820-1880
Dutch Households in U.S. Population Census: 1850, 1860, 1870

These are available at Euregionaal Historisch Documentatie Centrum in Aalten and ECAL in Doetinchem

Books in Dutch:

De landerhuizers: Emigratie naar Noord-Amerika uit het Gelders-Westfaalse grensgebied tussed de jarn 1830-1850 by G.H. Ligterink
Winterswijkse Pioniers in Amerika by Willem Wilterdink
Amsterdamse Emigranten: onbekende brieven uit de prairie van Iowa: 1846-1873
by J. Stellingwerff

Books in English:

Netherlanders in America by Jacob van Hinte
Netherlanders in America by Henry Lucas
Freedom on the Horizon: Dutch Immigration to America 1840-1940 by Hans Krabbendam
Immigrant Letter collection:

Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI

https://library.calvin.edu/hh/genealogy/immigrant-letters-dutch

Dutch Male Names and Nicknames

English Names	Dutch Equivalent Names	Shortened Dutch Names
Anthony | Tony	Anthonius | Antonis	Anton | Antoon | Toon | Tonnis | Antonus
Tony	Theunis | Teunis	Teun | Toni
Arnold | Art	Arnoldus	Arnold
Bartholomew	Bartolomeus | Bartholomeus	Bartol | Bart | Meese | Meus
Bert | Burt	Bertus | Berthold	Bert | Mart
Cornelis | Cornelius	Cornelis	Krelis | Nelis | Kees | Cees | Cor
Dennis	Denys | Dionijs	Nys | Nijs
Harmon	Hermannus | Harmannus	Herman | Mannus (see note)
Jacob	Jacobus | Jakobus	Jacob | Jokob | Jaap | Jakob
John	Johannus | Joannus	Johan | Jan | Hans | Hannus /Johannes
Matthew | Matt	Mathias | Mattias	Thys | Thijs | Tijs | Tice * see note
Nicholas | Nickolas	Nicolaes | Nikolaas	Claes | Klaas | Niek | Nico | Niekolaas
Peter	Petrus	Piet | Peter | Pieter
William	Wilhelmus | Willem	Wilm | Wim

Dutch Female Names and Nicknames

English Names	Dutch Equivalent Names	Diminuitive & Shortened Dutch Names
Alita	Aleida	Leida
Anthonia	-	Teuntje
Catherine	Catharina	Katrintje | Trintje | Trijntje
Cornelia	Cornelia	Neeltje
Kathy	Katharina	Katrijn | Trijntje
Cynthia	-	Steentje
Elenora | Nora (Elenora = Lena*)	Eleonara | Nora (Lena)	Leonora | Nora | Noortje
Frances	Fransiska | Fransisca	Francytje
Gertrude	Gertuida/Geertruida	Geertje | Truida | Trui
Helena | Helen (Helena = Lena*)	Helena | Heleen (Lena)	Lena | Heleentje | Leentje
Henrietta | Harriet	Henriette	Henriet | Hennie
Jane	Johanna | Janna	Jannetje | Jantje | Jannie
Joan	Johanna | Johanne | Joanna Joanne	Hanna | Janna | Hannie | Hanneke

Magdalena (Magdalena=Lena)	Magdalena	Magda | Lena | Leentje
Maria	Maria | Marita	Maritje | Marie | Ria | Marit
Margaret	Margaretha	Margrietje | Margje | Margriet | Margreet | Greet | Grietje
Phoebe	Pheabea	Femmeke | Femmetje | Femke | Femme /Famke/Phoebe
Sara	Sara	Saar | Saartje | Sytie
Sophia	Sophiia	Fytie | Fientje
unknown	Hendrika | Hendrike	Rika | Hendrikje

English Name	**Dutch/Frisian Name**
Abraham	Bram
Agatha	Aaghie, Aahie, Aagt, Agt,Aechtie
Agnes	Agnietje, Angeniete, Agneta, Anghe, Eike, Ikee, Oetje, Oeycke, Outie, Yke
Albert/Albertina	Aldert, Albertus, Bertus, Tietje, Tientje, Tiletje,Tit
Alice	Aaltje, Aeltje, Aeltie, Adda, Alerta, Daatje
Anthony	Antheunis, Anthonis, Antonius,Theunis, Teunis, Tonjes, Tonnes, Tool, Toon
Antoinette/Antonia	Toontje, Teuntje
Arnold	Arnoldus, Arent, Arendt, Aernoudt
Arthur	Aart, Aert, Arte
Baldwin	Boldwijn, Boudeweyn, Boudje, Boele, Bauduyn
Barbara	Barber, Bartje, Berber, Barbel, Barbara
Bernard	Barend, Bernd, Barendt
Bernardina	Dientje, Dina
Catherine/Katherine	Catrijn, Kaat, Katrijn, Tryntje, Trijn, Catharina, Catharyn, Catalyn, Cataline, Catalina, Catalyntie
Charles/Carl/Karl	Carel, Ceerles, Cheerelz, Karel, Kareltje
Christina/Christine	Christina, Christine, Styntje, Styntie, Stijntje, Krisje, Kristel, Kristijntje
Clara/Claire	Klaar, Klaartje, Clara, Claertje, Claertie
Cornelia	Cheiltje, Kee, Keetje, Neeltje, Cornelia
Cornelius	Cornellis, Cornelis, Kees, Keesje, Koris, Krelis,
Cynthia	Seytie, Sitske, Sytje
David	Daaf, Douwe
Debora/Deborah	Diewertje, Divertje, Dievertje, Diever, Diver
Dirk/Derek	Dirck
Dora	Dortchen
Dorothy	Door, Doortje, Dort, Dorothea, Dorathee, Dorothe
Egbert	Egbert, Epje
Elizabeth	Elisabeth, Lysbeth, Lysbethje, Beth, Betje
Elsie	Elsje, Uilkje, Oeke

Eva/Eva	Aetje, Aefje, Eefje, Ifje
Florian	Floris
Frances/Fanny/Francine	Femmetje, Francijntje, Fransje, Francina,
Francis	Frans, France, Francois, Francoys, Frnaciscus,
George	Goris, Joris, Jurgen, Jurian, Jurn
Geraldine	Geert, Gerritje
Gerard/Gerarda/Gerardina	Garret, Geert, Gerrit, Geesje, Desin
Gertrude	Geertie, Geertje, Geertrui, Geertruida, Geertruyd, Trul, Truitje
Gilbert	Bert, Gijs, Gijsbertus, Gysbert, Byslbert
Giles	Geleyn, Gellis, Gelles
Goeffrey/Jeffrey	Govert
Henriette/Henrietta/Harriet	Hendrickje, Hendrica, Hentje, Jetje
Henry	Enrik, Hein, Hientje, Hendrick, Hendricus, Hentrick
Herman	Harman, Harmen, Manus, Harmanus
Hilda	Hilletje, Hilligond
Herbert	Hubregt
Ida	Eytic, Ydtje, Ida
Isaac	Yzaak, Isaac, Isacq, Isac
Jacob/James/Jim	Jacob, Jacobus, Jaap, Jaapie, Jacobje, Jaepje, Jobje, Japic, Joaptie, Jacoba, Koosje, Koba,
Janet, Jane	Jaantje, Janneken, Jannetje, Janotje, Jansje, Jantina
John/Jack/Johnny	Jan, Joannes, Johannes, Hans, Hannes,
Julia	Jeltje
Kathleen, Kate, Kitty	Katryntje, Kaatje, Kesia, Kaatje
Lawrence/Laurence	Louw
Leonard	Leen, Leendert
Lewis/Louis/Ludwig	Lodewijk, Loures, Ludovicus, Louijs, Liewe
Lisbeth	Lijsbert, Lys, Lysbet
Lena	Geziena, Magdalena
Magdalena/Madelaine	Magdaleentje, Leentje, Lena, Marregante
Margaret/ Meg/Peg/Peggy	Margit, Margriet, Margrietje, Griet, Grietje, Margarietje, Margarietie
Maria/Mary/Marie	Maria, Marye, Marijken, Maritie, Mayken, Marritje, Maritje, Marij, Marytje
Martin	Maarten, Martijn, Marten, Martinus
Mathilda/Matilda	Machteld, Magtelt
Matthew/Matthias	Mattheus, Matthys, Teeuw, Teeuwis, Thys, Mathias, Tijs
Michael	Giel, Machiel, Micheltjen, Michiel
Nicholas/Nick	Claes, Klaas, Klaasje, Nicolas, Nicolaas

Paul	Pouw, Powles, Paulus
Paulina	Paultje, Paylyntie,
Peter	Pier, Piet, Pieter, Petrus, Pieetr
Petronella	Petronella, Pietje, Pieternelly, Nelly
Ralph	Roelof, Rolfe
Richard	Rijkaard, Rijkerd, Ritsert, Rutsjert, Rykaa, Ritsgert
Robert Robbert	
Sarah/Sally	Saartje, Seer, Sasze, Taatje, Selitje
Sophia/Sophie	Fick, Fletje, Futje, Sefia, Sophie, Fytie
Susan/Susanna	Zanneke, Sanna, Sanneke, Sannertje, Santje
Theodore/Theodoric	Dorus, Derick, Dierderick, Dirk, Dirkje
Timothy	Goverd, Tijmen, Tomatius, Tymen, Timotheus
Walter	Wout, Wouter
Wilhelmina	Mijntje, Mimmi, Wyntje, Willemintje, Wellemtje, Willemyn, Wimpje, Willemke, Wim
William/Willy	Willem, Wim, Willempje, Wiebe

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