

HANNEMA – FRANEKER BRANCH

The name **Hannema**, in the past sometimes also written as **Hannama**, was already known in the Middle Ages, with a certain **Tjerk van Hannema**, mayor of **Bakhuizen**, in the province of Friesland – The Netherlands, in the 15th century. In different older books describing Frisian Nobility, several **Hannemas** are mentioned to be living in other parts of Friesland during the same period. They had possessions in different regions as e.g. the **Hannema Estates** in **Koudum**.

A certain **Dirck (van) Hannema** from **Koudum** and **Bolsward** is known to have been favorable to the Habsburgs in Spain at the start of the Dutch war of independence from **Spain**. He was therefore forced into exile with his family, living in **Emmerich**, across the border in **Germany** in 1580.

In the 17th century **Hannemas** can be found as mayors of **Staveren** and **Harlingen**. Besides in honorary and public functions, the **Hannemas** were usually found to be active in commerce and industry. From the 17th or 18th centuries onwards, the **Hannema** family is split into 5 branches: the **Harlingen-**; the **Franeker-**; the **Westergoo-**; the **Oostergoo-** and the **Ameland** branches.

The **Harlingen** branch is well known, with its descendants occupying different public functions in the 18th and 19th centuries like **Jacobus Hannema**, born in 1752, who was mayor of **Harlingen**, and his grandson **Leendert** born in 1825, who was member of the Frisian parliament. Leendert's nephew, **Sjoerd Hannema**, born in 1847, was secretary-general of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and Leendert's son **Sjoerd** born in 1852, became colonel in the Dutch army in 1907. His brother **Dirk** married **Hermine de Stuers** in **Indonesia** in 1883. Their son **Dirk Hannema**, born in 1895, became a well-known art collector and critic and was curator of the Boymans Museum in **Rotterdam** for more than 20 years. After World War II he retired to his castle "het Nijenhuis" in **Heino**. He was heir to the **Hannema-de Stuers** Foundation, which turned the castle into a museum.

In **Harlingen** there exists the «**Hannema Huis**», the patrician house where the **Hannema** family in **Harlingen** lived for over 200 years before it became the **Harlingen** city museum in 1964, tracing the history of this Frisian port city.

The **Franeker** branch starts with a certain **Epke** who lived in **Friesland** in the middle of the 17th century. His son **Geert Epkes** was born in 1648, the emblematic year of the Peace of Westphalia, which sealed the independence of the Netherlands, and initiated a new political order in Europe. **Geert** became "executeur" (a public function somewhere between a bailiff and a sheriff) in the county of **Tietjerksteradeel**, Friesland around 1700. Geert's son **Epke Geerts**, born ca 1675, was a schoolteacher in **St. Jacobiparochie** in the first half of the 18th century. His son **Jan Epkes Hannema**, born ca 1708, became burgher of **Franeker** in 1730. He became wealthy owning different property there, followed by his children and grandchildren, all well established in **Franeker**. Jan Epkes' son **Pieter Jans**, born in 1740 was a well-to-do trader. **Pieter** had three sons, from whom all **Hannemas** of the **Franeker** branch descend: **Jan**, born in 1774, **Philippus**, born in 1778 and **Lucas**, born in 1785. **Jan's** descendants are the most numerous. Many times we encounter 3 brothers in the family; depending on their names, in some cases they were called the three apostles !

Well-known is Philippus' (∅ Jan's) grandson **Jan Hannema**, known as **Admiral Tom Pouce** (Thumb), born in 1839, whose parents, **Pieter Philippus** ∅ **Baukje Jans** were cousins. The **Frisian dwarf** – only 70 cm tall, the smallest-known person in the world at that time, toured **Europe** playing in fairs, circuses ∅ theatres. In **Holland**, **Jan** could be seen driving a tiny carriage drawn by a small horse. He was presented to the Royal Houses of the Netherlands, Belgium and the U.K. King Willem II granted him a yearly pension ∅ Queen Victoria gave him a complete set of furniture made specially for his measures.

Lucas' son **Petrus Lucas Hannema**, born in 1811, was a doctor from the University of **Franeker** who established himself in **Minnertsga**. He was a Francophile and enjoyed a burgundian lifestyle.

Petrus' son **Dirk**, born in 1849, spoke French, excelled in the Frisian national sport "kaatsen" and was a well to do businessman. He married **Aukje Schotanus** in 1882. The **Schotanus** name is known in the Netherlands due to **Christiaan Schotanus**, Professor at the University of **Franeker**, and his son **Bernhardus**, who created the first maps of Friesland in the 17th century and gave their name to the **Schotanus-Atlas**, which was common in schools around Holland until recently. The descendants of Petrus' son **Jelle**, born in 1851, moved to the province of **Limburg**.

Like other Europeans, many Dutchmen emigrated to the **U.S.** Indeed, two **Hannemas** from the **Franeker** branch (Dirk's ∅ Jelle's brother **Foeke**, born in 1847 as well as their second cousin once removed, **Tjerk Ferdinand**, born in 1889) emigrated to **America** with their families in the 19th century. They established themselves in **Chicago/Illinois** and in **Michigan** with their descendants moving on to other States in the 20th century. **Cornelius** and **Frank**, both sons of Foeke, fought with the American Expeditionary Force in **France** during World War I.

Dirk had three sons and a daughter. His son **Johannes Hannema**, born in 1885, set up an export company, trading in the **United Kingdom** with his brother **Petrus**, born in 1884, who settled in **Hull** after spending some time in **America** with his uncle Foeke's family. **Johannes** had a strong social orientation, active in various charitable institutions engaged during the Great Depression. He was a Freemason and wrote several plays in Frisian. Dirk's son **Lucas**, born in 1891, was an artist and was known in Friesland as conferencier and baritone-singer in between the world-wars. Dirk's daughter **Luutske**, born in 1883, had two sons. One of them, **Wijnand Morren**, born in 1909, was deputy mayor of **Amsterdam** during many years.

Johannes' son **Dirk Hannema**, born in 1913, studied civil engineering. In his early professional life he was guided by Prof. W. Schermerhorn, who became Dutch Prime Minister after World War II. **Dirk** married **Maria van Lint** in **Indonesia** in 1947 and after spending a career around the world as an executive for Shell-Oil, became consul of the **Netherlands** in **South America** in 1961. He finally settled in **Argentina**. Due to his international career, Dirk's three sons, **Johannes** born in 1948, **Petrus** born in 1950 and **Dirk** born in 1953, grew up largely outside the **Netherlands**.

Dirk Hannema, March 2010